



SEGA SATURN

ISSUE 6

APRIL 96



£2.75

MAGAZINE



100% complete games
100% complete cartridges AND
100% complete reviews

GUNGRIFFON

100% complete

WIPEOUT

100% complete
100% complete
100% complete

MORTAL KOMBAT 3

100% complete
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PLUS! DARK SAVIOUR MAGIC CARPET DARKSTALKERS

VIRTUA FIGHTER 2 GUIDE

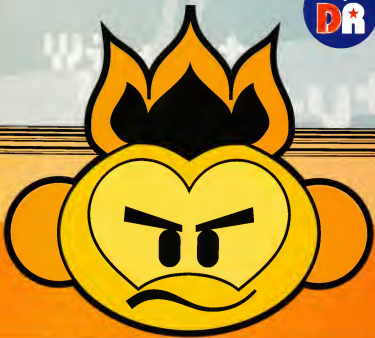
PANZER DRAGON 2 STREET FIGHTER ALPHA VIRTUA FIGHTER 3 TIME ATTACK COMPO



I'VE GOT THIS EARLY MORNING ROUTINE.

I CLEAN MY FACE WITH **OXY DAILY WASH** EVERY MORNING BECAUSE I DON'T WANT SPOTS. IT CLEARS MY PORES OF THE MUCK AND GREASE THAT CAUSES THEM. **SPOTS? OXYCUTE 'EM!**





**go speed
racer!**



SEGA SATURN

M | A | G | A | Z | I | N | E

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PLUS!

SEGA RALLY TIME ATTACK COMPETITION

83

Are you among the top ten Rally masters in the country?

RALLY GUIDE PART 2

86

If not, consult the second part of our Sega Rally guide!

VIRTUA FIGHTER 2 MASTERGLASS

88

And if fighting's your bag, then look no further than this!

SHOWCASES

MAGIC CARPET

Converted from the classic PC hit, Magic Carpet is one of the most original, addictive, and visually stunning 3D shoot 'em ups yet seen on the Saturn. Six pages of strange incantations explain why this game is full of Eastern promise!

34

PANZER DRAGON 2

Proving to be at least three times as impressive as the original, this sequel is one of the most amazing titles we've seen in a long time! Don't believe us? Turn to page 32 for further evidence!

52

GUNGRIFION

Over a year in the making, Grungriffon arrives on the Saturn scene with an onslaught of clearly stamping its robot-war authority. Screen-filling characters, plenty of hi-tech weaponry and more mayhem than you could possibly imagine!

42

DARKSTALKERS

Fighting games are literally flooding on to the Saturn at the moment, and this month Capcom unleashes yet another beast on to the machine. Is this the best yet? Read this six page feature to find out!

56

MORTAL KOMBAT 3

Sure, the Playstation already has Mortal Kombat 3, but Saturn owners are about to be treated to the ULTIMATE conversion! Loads more blood, loads more characters and easily the best version yet!

46

WIPEOUT SECRETS

Due to hit the shops any day now, Wipeout just may prove to be the most challenging racer yet! We take you on a four page journey through the first three tracks, and unveil techniques for tackling those all-important speed ups. The first of a two-part series.

64

COVER STORY:

KING OF THE FIGHTERS '99

We take this Neo-Geo classic apart and unveil the dsl cartridge/cd processing system only available on the Saturn! Six pages of top beat 'em up action with news of that all-important UK release date!

28

SEGA SATURN™

N | E | W | S

PRICE WAR IS ON THE WAY!

Just as we were writing up this issue, we heard that a massive announcement concerning the price of the Saturn was to be made in Japan. It turns out that the Japanese have decided to slash the Saturn's price to just 30,000 yen - that's only £250! It seems that the reason for this lies in the Saturn/Playstation hardware battle, which Sega is winning by over 300,000 units. Sega now want to push Sony out of the market even more with their aggressive pricing, and for the moment this seems to be working. The price drop is also thought to counter attack the Ultra 64 launch, where the machine is bound to come in at a very competitive price. Whether or not this will lead to a price drop in the UK remains to be seen - it's unlikely that we'll see cuts by the same proportion, as Japanese retailers make no money on hardware sales at all. However, it seems a sensible strategy to boost UK Saturn sales, especially as they are beginning to catch up with PlayStation. In the meantime though, be satisfied that there's plenty of top quality Saturn titles on their way to UK gamers over the next month or so, all of which you can read about in this very issue. Plus, two to page 98 now for an exciting announcement for next issue!

Sam McKinnon

VIRTUA FIGHTER 3... AT LAST!

The new character that Yu Suzuki and co have noticed the Japanese public (and the world!) with has finally been unveiled! Previously, we could only see expert parts of the character in various press releases, but now the new fighter has made an appearance in full at the AGU show (see inside show in Japan). The new character is a Japanese female fighter named Aoi Umenokoshi. She wears a pink and purple kimono with Sakura petal patterns on it and holds a fan (which is no doubt used in her attacks). A character profile has not been released yet, but there was a moving demo of the character at the AGU. She

showed some blocking movement, but it is hard to determine what style of fighting she will possess.

Other characters on show, were Lau and Dural. Whereas previous VF graphics suffered from visible jarring of the limbs, this time, the Chinese master looked like a real person with no blockiness whatsoever! However, it was Dural that stole the show. She/R looked identical to T 2000 from the 1st movie. The metal surface reflected the light from the surrounding backdrops and can only be described as absolutely breathtaking. Expect to see loads more on VF3 soon!



Ice hockey VIRGINS

Sega's NHL Hockey was reviewed in Issue 1 of Sega Saturn Magazine, earning a respectable 78%. Ready to face off against it is Virgin's Power Play Hockey '96, an NHL approved game, meaning all the teams and stars are in there. Programmed by American beefies, Radical, this is shaping up nicely, using some breathtaking graphics and animation and featuring some very fast gameplay. What's more, it's being developed to accommodate six players simultaneously! Due out around June, there's still some way to go before we can really estimate how good it is, but look out for a preview in next month's issue.



Takeru from the NFL 96 disc, this could be the quality of Rags is 95%



Sarah hasn't been programmed in to 97 yet, but you can be sure she'll be appearing.

STOP PRESS! PANZER UPDATE

Perusing through the contents you'll no doubt notice our *Panzer Dragoon Zwei* show case. The version that we had was incomplete, lacking most of Episode 5 and all of Episode 6 and a couple of bosses. But as is often the way in the chaotic world of magazines, a complete version arrived in the office just too late to be included in the showcase. Not wanting you to lose out though, here's a look at all the missing bits:

EPISODE 1:

In our original version of the game, Episode 1 was quite short. It still is fairly short but now there's a lot more action, with more flying enemies especially. Episode 1 doesn't have a boss, however and there are no plans to include one. Instead a cut-out sequence sees you moving between the claws of a giant monster that looks a lot like the boss of Episode 3.

EPISODE 5:

Episode 5 is now complete and it looks absolutely stunning. Rather than lots of small enemies attacking, it concentrates on large foes which release a strange variety of projectiles, including things which split into about a hundred other things, and then come racing towards you. Isometric shapes come staring out of the scenery/landscape and start about, unleashing spiky spheres which roll through the air in columns causing you to either dodge them or try and shoot them down. There's even stuff which burst into fireworks trails. As for the boss, this is a black mushroom-type thing except with spikes and an odd kind of green hexagonal shield. Bizarre indeed! Anyway, it's bloody tough so be warned.

EPISODE 8?

So is there an Episode 8? Well, yes and no. There's not an official Episode 8 in the sense that when you beat the boss in Episode 7 you automatically go on to it. What we suspect though is that there is an extra stage if you complete the game with a high percentage of shooting accuracy. We shall see.

DON'T BLAME US, BLAME THEM!

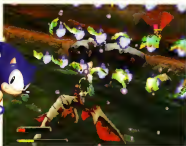
You wouldn't believe the amount of phone calls we receive hanging on about RF cables (or lack of them)! All cameramen, prices of games - just about everything that has anything to do with Sega - but sometimes we're just not the best people to talk to - after all half the time we're just as confused by dealers as you are. However, help is at hand with the all new Sega customer service line, created specifically to deal with all your game and Saturn enquiries. The number to call is 0800 333 4646. If you have a more specific enquiry (not game related) you can email Sega directly on sega@saturn.sega.co.uk. They can't guarantee a personal reply for everyone, but all of your queries/suggestions will be read.



Taken from the just-finished episode 5 too. As you can see, there's a bit of a battle going on here.

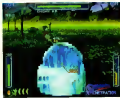
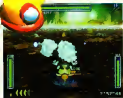
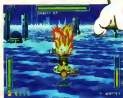


Wow! That's a bit chaotic isn't it? Well we're not complaining - it looks absolutely cool. Look out for the review in just a few short weeks, folks!



LORDY! IT'S GEBOCKERS!

Contrary to popular belief, the Saturn link-up cable is on the way, and to prove it here's the first link up game! Gebockers is currently only available in Japan, although rumour has it that the title will be appearing over here in the next couple of months. The actual gameplay, predictably enough, consists of running about the levels, shooting at your opponent, and overall it's quite, um, average really. But, at least it proves that the link-up cable exists, although at the moment, there's no other titles which it can be used with. A UK release date and price for the peripheral is yet to be decided, although it's expected to retail at around £20-£25.



GUNSTAR HEROES FOR SATURN?

Rumours emerging on the internet suggest that halcyon programmers Treasure are hard at work on their next Saturn title. There's no word from the firm themselves on what the new title will contain, but it's thought that a Gunstar Heroes follow-up, with a complete new game engine and new graphics, is on the cards. Well, we certainly wouldn't be complaining if this turned out to be true - more when we get to the bottom of this story.



Gunstar Heroes on the Saturn? Great...



...it's gonna look loads better than this!

Fighting Vipers cheat!

The following code will enable you to play as the enigmatic Mabbler on the new Sega browser, Fighting Vipers. On the player select screen, push the start button down, and the joystick up and right/left. When the player select cursor gets to the right edge of the player select board, Mabbler should be there, ready to be a selectable character.



Virtua Cop cheat

Not exactly useful, but also easy. After you've played the game 30 (yes 30) times, the game's background changes according to whether you are playing it in the day or at night (spoiled your Saturn's clock is programmed of course). Good, eh?

Can you make split second decisions?

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ROYAL AIR FORCE FIGHTER CONTROLLER

HMV CHARTS

Week ending 11 March

	Title	By
1	F-1 Challenge	Sega
2	Steel Arms	Sega
3	Super Strike	Sega
4	Warrior	Sega
5	San City 2000	Sega
6	Hung On	Sega
7	Virtua Fighter 2	Sega
8	Nystaria: Realms of Lore	Sega
9	Firestorm	Core
10	Virtua Cop	Sega

SATURN MAGAZINE CHARTS

1	Sega Rally	Sega
2	Wipacot	Sega
3	Wipacot	Sega
4	Conquest	Game Arts
5	X-Men: Children of the Atom	Acclaim
6	Streetfighter Alpha	Virgin
7	Darkstalkers	Virgin
8	Magic Carpet	Bullfrog
9	Guardian Heroes	Sega
10	Virtua Cop	Sega

READER CHARTS

We want your chart! Send your top ten in to us at CRUETS, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, FRODO COURT, 30-32 FARRINGDON LANE, LONDON EC1R 4AU. Three readers each month will be picked out of the bag, and will receive a brand spanking new Saturn game!

II. SATURN PRICE CRASH II

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All persons who submitted data have signed informed consent forms. The data were collected for research purposes only and will not be used for any other purpose.

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128.75	Beck's Memory	114.50	+ 100% share
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林涛	男	33	技术支持	海口市琼山区	09400094000
周娜	女	36	培训支持	海口市龙华区	09300093000
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MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Yes, it's that time again, readers! In May of this year we'll be announcing the winners for the EMAP Golden Jizzies Awards, where top game companies are recognised for their best efforts in 1995. As ever, the majority of decisions for category winners are made according to reader votes. To vote, all you have to do is fill in this form (or a copy of this form) and send it in to us. There's two fun snippets to SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE up for grabs for taking part: so don't delay! Entries must be received by March 30th and should be sent to: GOLDEN JIZZIES AWARDS, EMAP IMAGES, PRIORY COURT, 30-32 HARRINGTON LANE, LONDON EC6A 3AL.

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BEST CONSOLE DEVELOPER

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SOFTWARE HOUSE OF THE YEAR

VIDEO'S UP FOR GRABS!

here at **Saga Software** and, given we know no bounds and just to prove it, we're giving away a bunch of videos just because we're in a good mood. Five sets of four videos are up for grabs all from Warner's Beyond VHS and Terror Vision catalog. This quarter includes Rollback! the sci-fi classic featuring the gnarly James Caan, two Hammer classics in the shape of Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell and Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed both starring the late great Peter Cushing, and The Outer Limits Volume 6, which features the story 'Soldier' which was the basis for

Terminator: We can hear you chomping at the bit already so without further delay here's the question: Who wrote the book *Frankenstein: Easy* isn't it. Send your answers to **WINNER VIDEO'S COMPO, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE**, go-on Partridge Lane, London SE16 5AU by April 1995.



OVER YOUR SHOULDER THROUGH YOUR LEGS IN YOUR FACE



"Total NBA is one of the best games to appear on the PlayStation machine so far.
If you don't buy it you will be laughed at by small children on the street." — Game Pro.



IN DEVELOPMENT

Usually, news of game development is a bit quiet at this time of year, as most software houses have just about recovered from Christmas and are thinking about their summer releases. But, development news for the Saturn couldn't be better at the moment, with almost every software company preparing to release something on the Saturn. There's more quality titles on the way too, with games such as *Need for Speed* and *Space Hulk* Saturn-bound sometime in the early summer. And of course in the meantime, there's even more *Psygnosis* titles on the way too!

3D LEMMINGS

Ha! You thought that you'd seen the last of them when they appeared in *Lemmings* on the Megadrive! But they're back! And this time they're in 3D!

Actually it's not that exciting really is it? Lemmings are creatures that you either love or hate and whichever way you still love to hate them. But you've got to hand it to them: they've certainly managed to get themselves on the spotlight over the last couple of months and have managed to claim out a fairly successful PlayStation title too. And of course, as you've probably guessed by now (actually we did announce it in a previous issue of *SSM*), the PlayStation version of *Lemmings* will appear on the Saturn within the next couple of months. (In there's not much else to say about it really seeing as this is bound to be a perfect conversion, but it will feature loads of puzzles, not to mention some mind bending, hair pulling gameplay. Can't wait, can you?)



Because this is in 3D you can view the action from any angle, in fact you'll have to become getting the lemmings back alive involves exploring structures in their vicinity.



Love 'em or hate 'em the lemmings are back, just as stupid, just as frustrating and just as green as ever.



As well as the usual digger, blocker, ladder and so on, 3D *Lemmings* comes with a couple of added miles for the furry little meemies. There's a 'force' which will change the direction in which they move and 'vertical lemming' which lets you analyse a puzzle through their eyes!





DISCWORLD

No doubt you will have already heard about this one somewhere down the line too, as it's already appeared on both the PC and the Playstation. Featuring the talents of novelist Terry Pratchett combined with the comedy genius of Eric Idle, Discworld is an adventure game played out in the fantasy world of the discworld novels.

Based heavily on the Discworld series of novels, the game takes most of its influences from point and click RPG games (more popular on the PC than on console). There's no overall quest to complete (we are dealing with creative types here) but one of the tasks you'll have to complete is robbing the town of a rampaging dragon. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. After locating the dragon, you'll find much darker deeds afoot, with secret cults working in the town who are planning some extremely dastardly things.

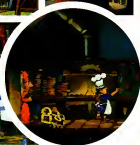
Although this is still very deep in development, it's pretty safe to say that the final result will be exactly the same as the original title, and should prove to be a popular game for the Saturn - the PC version won numerous awards for its innovative gameplay. More news or even a preview next month.



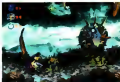
Ravenshoe prepares to shuffle on to the Saturn.



The chest on the right is Ravenshoe's inventory.



SKELETON WARRIORS



try This out before it's too late

This was featured in last month's news section, where we stated that although the title is almost finished, it may never see a UK release. Why? Well, it seems as though it's a tad on the obscure side for most UK gamers, but fear not, we reckon that someone will snag it up any day now.

Anyway, Skeleton Warriors will be released by Playmates in the US, and while it may boast an impressive death-slayer intro, the gameplay is somewhat traditional, with the majority of gameplay involving around a traditional scrolling beat 'em up title. As mentioned previously, there are some nice graphical touches in the levels, including scaled baddies and the likes, which appear throughout the game. However, with much more innovative products on offer, it's difficult to say how successful the title will be over here. It should be out on import within the next couple of weeks, and we'll keep you posted on news of a UK release date.

 **IN DEVELOPMENT**

SPACE HULK

DEV. EA

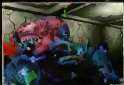
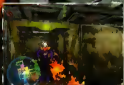
RELEASE SUMMER

Yeah, yeah, so Doom won't be out on the Saturn for a few more months. But there's nothing we can do about it, so you'll just have to wait. But there is an alternative - *Space Hulk*. This title is currently receiving loads of attention for its in-depth play and hyper gory visuals and will shortly be available on the 3DO and PC. Fortunately, it's being converted to the Saturn too, and a playable version should be ready within the next couple of months.

Set in the 41st century, humans have reached the farthest depths of the galaxy and have colonized many different planets. Naturally, this means that they've had to dominate alien life forms too. For the most part, this has been handled very well, but there's always one race that's bound to rebel, and naturally it's the *Ultramarines* have turned against their master first.

Of course, this means that someone is going to have to go and sort the evil ones out. For this task has been assigned to you, the warrior. Yup, you'll have to slay the overpowered and single-handed and rid the world of every last one. There's a lot of gore, gore by the bucketload and some very busy, atmospheric, sprawling scenarios of intricate levels.

With the timing of this arrival plus the impending release of *Need for Speed*, it seems as though Electronic Arts are finally making an effort to get into the Saturn market. And as more news on this one next month when hopefully we'll have a Saturn version to show you (the shots here are taken from the PC version).



It's big, he's bad and he doesn't like humans very much. One the *Space Hulk* about 'out up action!

Space Hulk is likely to be the first of the first-person perspective Masters on the Saturn. He's tall though in Alien Trilogy.



OVERKILL

After hastily retreating from the Sega market sometime last year, Konami seem to have had a change of heart and in addition to agreeing to publish one more title on the Magazine, they've agreed to publish on the Saturn too. Luckily unlike their last game, Parodius, this is a complete new project for the company, although it will appear on the Playstation first.

Overkill is a 3D shooter which poses the question "is violence any good?" To which the obvious answer is "yes, actually". As part of a special forces team, you have been hired in to rid the environment of nasty enemies with the help of some heavy machinery.

Although there's not much to see on the game at the moment, the final product should be a top party of blood and guts, and if past Konami releases are any thing to go by, it will be pretty innovative too. However, with most of the development taking place in Japan, it will probably be a fair few months before we get to see any actual code, but as the Japanese version won't be changed for us blood fearing Europeans, PAL conversion time will be as short as possible.



Plenty of guns, plenty of bullets and plenty of dead bodies await the player in Overkill.

NEED FOR SPEED



Learn to drive the easy way with this ever driving emulator, Need for Speed.



Shills learning to drive in real life, Need for Speed doesn't see your instructor sitting in the passenger seat smoking about 100 cigarettes in the space of an hour.

With the heavy-duty console war that's going on at the moment, it's probably fair to say that lesser machines have lost out somewhat. The 3DO is a particular example, and while it has had some great titles in the past, has been overshadowed in recent months by both the Saturn and Playstation.

But that's not to say that there aren't any titles on the 3DO that are worth seeing on the Saturn. In fact, developers Electronic Arts have decided to convert a whole bunch of 3DO titles over the coming months, with the excellent Need for Speed heading the posse. This has probably been one of the most successful 3DO titles to date, achieving 90% scores from most multi-format magazines.

However, unlike the rally and Wipeout's of this world, Need for Speed is actually a driving simulation, so just putting your foot down and hoping for the best just won't work in this game. You can still reach some pretty high speeds though, and the pile ups can be a bloody hell.

There's been no word of an exact release date for the title, although work has already begun on the Saturn conversion - it should be a fairly straightforward process as its unlikely that EA will make any real changes for the version.

IMPACT RACING

Bikes today, huh. All they want is fast cars, fast women and the glitzy high life. Or so JVC would have you believe if you took their Impact Racing game seriously.

Already released in Japan under the title Wong Gang Dead Heat, we didn't really expect to see this released in the UK. But JVC think that it will appeal to a certain type of gamer over here, but seeing as it features busty babes with not very much on, we think they're making the "pinhead" novelty factor.

Anyway, Impact Racing is a car racing game, in theory not dissimilar to Sega Rally. You get to choose a navigator (one of a variety of scantily clad girls) and they will inevitably guide you around one of the many courses on offer.

It has to be said that graphically this doesn't measure up to the might of Sega Rally, and even as a novelty product it doesn't really offer anything we haven't seen before - except for squeals of encouragement from chosen girls. But with racing games more popular than ever on console, it could prove to be fairly successful, especially as it will no doubt be released during the quiet summer months.



On paper, you gotta work hard play hard, you hear? And drive a fine silver!

COIN OPERATED

With Manx TT barely out of the warehouse door and on the streets, you'd think that this would be a fairly quiet month for Sega. Think again though, this month we can bring you news of six projects that the Japanese have on the go - among them the eagerly-awaited Sonic game!

AM3 UNVEIL NEW ARCADE TITLE - LAST BRONX

Released to the Japanese press at the recent ADU (arcade show), this new AM3 title employs the Model 2 board, and looks set to further enhance Sega's reputation as the best coin-op developers in the world.

Set some time in this decade in Tokyo, the title spotlights gangs of youths who roam the city at night in search of violence and corruption. However, the leaders of each gang have decided to face one another in a battle for territory instead of their followers fighting little skirmishes across the city. Who will control the capital at the beginning of the 21st century? Well, that's down to you and your fighting skills, buddy.

Anyone who's been to Tokyo will recognise some of the buildings featured in this game - in fact Sega took great care in recreating Tokyo for the game's back ground. The designers have also sought to bring realism to the characters by making them wear present day street fashion in Japan.

The control method and the rules for this particular title haven't quite been decided yet, except for the fact that each fight will take place inside a closed off ring so a win can only be achieved by a KO. The game will feature 8 characters, all wielding weapons as such as tonfas and nunchucks. More on this one as info arrives - there's no word of a UK release at the moment.



SONIC GAME UPDATE

While the details of AM3's new fighting game, Last Bronx, is pretty vague, information on the new Sonic title is flooding in. The new Sonic game will employ the same control method of the successful V1 series (featuring a joystick and three buttons in which to take your character into battle). AM3 have also stated that there will be nine characters featured in the game. Alongside Sonic, there's Tails, Knuckles, Amy Rose, Pang, Espio, Metal Sonic, and Eggman. "That's only 8!" I hear you cry. But don't worry. The ninth fighter is an all new Akiba character. At this moment, the programmers are considering whether to provide this new fighter with realistic animation as in V1a. More details next issue.



Sonic can't fight Amy Rose! She's supposed to be his girlfriend! Oh dear, this could all turn out to be a bit dodgy.



VIRTUA FIGHTER KIDS MAKES PROGRESS

As VF Kids is aimed at the younger generation of gamers, there's plenty of departures from the traditional VF gameplay—and AAA recently revealed some of these to the Japanese press. For a start, there will be 'hit' marks after you hit your opponent, similar to the marks seen in 3D titles such as Street Fighter. Contrary to our report in the March issue of SGA, SATURN MAGAZINE, the game will be made using the 32-V board. A conversion to Saturn would be very straightforward and has pretty much been confirmed: in a recent interview with the VF Kids chief, Ikuo Okauchi, Okauchi said that the Saturn version will have extra moves from the Arcade version plus an opening and ending movie for each character.

Sega predicts that this latest addition to the VF series will be a great success and the merchandising for the title (ie soft toys for each character) is already available. It's certain to go down a storm in Japan.



AND THERE'S MORE...

Remember Track and Field? How about Daley Thompson's Decathlon on the Spectrum? Well, forget all that rubbish, because Sega are releasing an all-new arcade sports game entitled Decathlon. Obviously, it features all ten sports from the decathlon event and can be played in either single or two player mode. The game has the same control method of previous decathlon titles where repeated button pressing will make your athlete do the moves. It also features several angles from which to view your athlete, a stopwatch, a live player option and a play back feature. News on a UK release date soon — along with essential Saturn conversion details.



All-new Decathlon coin-up — coming to Saturn too in the Autumn!



VIRTUA COP 2 FOLLOW UP

After the huge success of their previous two gun-based games, Virtua Cop 1 and 2, Sega have decided to release yet another. However, this time, there's no appearances from Riggs and Smatry, and what's more, you're not even a police officer. No, no, you're a crew member of the Gunblade helicopter, part of the Special Air Attack Force. Gunblade and its crew have been assigned to take out the terrorist force that have taken over the UN General Assembly meeting in New York. The terrorists have taken the world leaders within the UN and the many citizens of the city as hostages and are making unreasonable demands of the international community. In a normal situation, the NYPD would suffice, but these terrorists have an advantage — they have android soldiers that were developed in the next step in military technology. The fate of the world rests in your hands!

The machine itself is a dedicated cabinet made on the Model 1 board but is different from previous shooters as it comes equipped with incredible guns. When set to recoil, the gun will lock back, giving the player a impression of controlling a very powerful weapon. Another feature that makes this game different from the Virtua Cop series is that you don't have to reload. So no more agonising deaths as you stare at the enemy while frantically trying to reload your gun. However, one feature that has made it into this latest Sega game are the barrels and the abandoned cars that can be used to clear a cluttered screen of enemy characters. Gunblade is also the first 3D shooting game to feature enemies with Artificial Intelligence. What this will do to the game's playability remains to be seen but this new development is certainly very interesting.

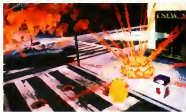
At the moment, only two missions have been outlined.

Mission 1: Release the UN headquarters from the terrorist siege!

This mission is designed to let the player become accustomed to the game's features and controls. Scene 1 requires the player to attack a batch of terrorists at the famous Times Square.

Mission 2: Fly amongst the tall buildings of near the Rockefeller Center whilst destroying a floating air fortress.

However, expect to be hearing much, much more about this title in coming months, plus details of special test sites sometime in early summer.





BY ACTEVERSION

STYLE ADVENTURE

RELEASE APRIL

The original *Alone in the Dark* only appeared on the PC. It's sequel though has already appeared on the PlayStation and now it's due for release on the Saturn. But the big question is: **who's Jack?**

Jack is a pirate. An immortal pirate in fact. And not a very nice one either. So nasty is he in fact that he's decided to kidnap a small child and stow her away on his ancient galleon ship which is moored off a bit of Californian coast known as Hell's Kitchen. To complicate matters, a Private Detective has come sniffing around the mansion next to it and promptly found himself swimming with the fishes thanks to a malvoiced goblin and femme fatale. Now another Private Dick, Edward Carnby, enters the scene, and with an explosion that blasts open the gates of the mansion this neolithic RPG kicks off.

If you know nothing about the original *Alone in the Dark* don't worry about it because this is a story in its own right. It's essentially a mixture of

...ALONE IN THE DARK 2 CONTAINS SOME VERY COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING PUZZLES THAT REQUIRE EXTENSIVE EXPLORATION AND NOT A LITTLE LUCK AND PATIENCE.

traditional RPG and adventure game that sees Eddie moving through garden mazes, dingy corridors and creaking ship cabins, occasionally stopping to check his inventory, shoot one of Jack's henchmen or admire the fine cut of his suit.

A lot of care has been taken to invoke atmosphere in *Alone in the Dark 2*, something that makes itself felt in all the expressionist camera angles and the dedication in the depiction of the 1930's decor. Behind this impressive veneer, *Alone in the Dark 2* contains some very complex and challenging puzzles that require extensive exploration and not a little luck and patience. All important clues are dotted about the place: be they newspaper cuttings, old photos or mystical books that speak of immortality and the powers of evil. Your ability to use combinations of pick-ups inventively is also tested. Say for example a door is locked with the key on the other side eh? Well, so long as you've got something to



He and of mysterious characters lurk among the grounds of the mansion at Hell's Kitchen. Trust none of them!



joke the key out like a pipe cleaner say, and a sheet of paper to shove under the door and catch it, you've got the problem solved. It gets much tougher than this though, so you can expect plenty of wandering back and forth in search of the missing link.

Edward Carnby isn't the only character players assume the role of in *Alone in the Dark 2*. As you progress, you also find yourself in control of the kidnapped child, Grace, at certain points in the game. Naturally this entails a different approach to the action, giving up strength and aggression but finding in its place an inconspicuous body capable of fitting into tiny spaces like dumb waiters.

Alone in the Dark is almost finished and it looks as if the convention is more or less identical to the previous versions.



Edward faces his first enemy after planting a bomb at the gate to get into the mansion. When he kills this guy he picks up a Tommy gun and some ammo.



This is where the story begins. Edward Carnby is dropped off at the mansion where he has to locate little Grace Sommers, track down Jack and bring freedom to the universal Alone.



ALONE IN THE DARK 2: JACK'S BACK

Infogrames paint it black with their new RPG.



Get into the trap door that leads to the secret underground beneath the garden.



This nasty little figure is responsible for the death of your body. Get Sirynus later in the game. He'll be the closer to take a little revenge on his behalf.



These statues of the four guard the maze which Galla has to trek through in order to get inside the mansion. Standing in his way though are two of Jack's henchmen. Get to them with the Toxic gas.



A body part is revealed at the window. None in the Dark makes use of cinematic rolling techniques to give things a bit of a movie feel to them. We in time call it montage you know.

BY	SEGA
STYLE	RPG
RELEASE	TBA

Yep, this one is going to be big. No two ways about it. From the moment the first pictures were released in Japanese magazines absolutely everyone went RPG crazy. And since then, although Climax haven't released much more of the game's code, the games playing public have been absolutely gagging for more pictures of the title. And although Sega have had a tradition in the past of not releasing RPGs over here due to their sometimes obscure nature, they will definitely be releasing Dark Saviour in the UK unfortunately it will be some time after the Japanese version as the amount of text needed to be translated is staggering.

However, despite the enormous amount of "story" which the game employs, we still managed to find out the general gist of what's going on for

YEP, THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE BIG. NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. FROM THE MOMENT THE FIRST PICTURES WERE RELEASED IN JAPANESE MAGAZINES, ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE WENT RPG CRAZY

some reason you (the hero of course) are called in to guard a ship with a monster on board. Unfortunately, this trifida like code breaks loose and devours one of the tough-looking sailor boys. Now it's up to you to recapture the monster. But first you'll have to find him. And let me tell you, this ship is pretty darned big - bigger than any ship we've seen before anyway. Plus, the monster has disappeared, leaving a trail of destruction behind him, at

Even though the Saturn has been out for **well over a year in Japan**, developers are **still making RPGs** that are more suited to the **Megadrive** more than anything else. In fact, maybe some of them were created for the **16-bitter** in the first place. **But, that's no excuse, is it?** Just as well, then, that **Climax** have developed the **first 3D adventure** to be seen on the system.

the same time blocking many of the paths that a hero would normally take when pursuing a particularly cross monster.

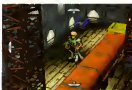
Of course, all this path blocking and more fire hazards means that there's a heavy puzzle solving element to the tale, and it's this part of the game play that has currently been programmed in. There's no enemies to face at the moment, so unfortunately we can't bring you any pictures of the hack and slash technique of our young warrior, but we can say that the pre-prod production version of the game is looking mighty impressive.

In addition to the novel 3D perspective of the game, there's also a unique control mechanism for the proceedings. It's possible to change the view in four directions, giving you a different 3D angle - particularly useful when parts of an area are obscured by scenery. It's also possible to sweep an area from top to bottom and side to side, so that more of the immediate play environment is revealed. This makes the game much more innovative than the traditionally non-groundbreaking RPG, and of course is another feature that puts it at the top of the eagerly awaited games list.

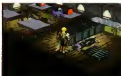
Although this will be out in Japan within the next month, it's unlikely that it will do very well on the Import scene, simply because the amount of Japanese text will prevent even the most ardent RPG or from getting very far into the game. However, worry ye not, because Sega have signed the game up for release in the UK for the early summer months. And we'll be bringing you updates on the titles progress as and when new versions arrive.



Emergency! Two required in the kitchen! Immediately! No time for sleep in this game, boy.



Displaying how the choice of 3D perspective works while playing the game. Simply tap which direction you're after on the joystick, then watch as the screen scrolls around in the part of the screen you selected. At the moment, the screen returns to its original position when you take your finger off the joystick.



"Well, uh, I'm in shock... We have no idea why the sailors had the need to transport this creature. Perhaps it's for scientific purposes."



Dark Saviour

Bringing a new gameplay style to the RPG!

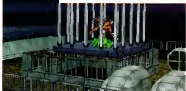
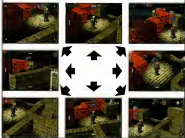
AH! IT'S ALL BECOMING MUCH CLEARER...

There's a number of different angles which the game can be viewed from - to use them requires little more than a tap in the right direction on the joystick

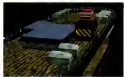
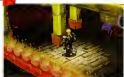
And here's all the angles you can choose from

There's the 3D angles

And the sweeping the area angles too!



Look! It's the brilliant monster thing that must be captured! Doesn't look very hard, does it? But it is. Why, it demands a whole sailor is little more than a mouthful. And it's so the rampage for more blood at this very moment. It's going to eat every member of the crew unless you do something about it.



US	CRIMINAL MINDS
STYLE	SPORTING
RELEASE	MARCH/APRIL

We wanna be free! We wanna be free to, to do what we wanna do! And we wanna get loaded. And we wanna have a good time. And that's what we're gonna do.

Look 'em up and throw away the key, that's what I say. Or better still, string 'em up! Yea. That's what they deserve those scum sucking criminals. I don't know much but I know that life should mean life. Not fit to walk our streets tell ya. To have the audacity to think they could get away without paying their TV license! Burn 'em! Burn 'em! Humane lethal injection! Humane lethal injection! But first thing first. Before we go exterminating deviants in the name of a rosy future, there's still a huge and burdensome prison population to deal with. Only one thing for it. Organise a crap detention planet and then jettison the lot of them life space.

CAUGHT ON AN ISOLATED PLANET DOING SPACE BIRD, SIX INMATES HAVE DECIDED TO TURN DOWN A BOWL OF COSMIC PORRIDGE IN FAVOUR OF THEIR FREEDOM.

If only it was that easy though. If loaded is anything to go by, such a policy is a recipe for disaster. Caught on an isolated planet doing space bird, six inmates have decided to turn down a bowl of cosmic porridge in favour of their freedom. The justifications put forward by this misguiding band are wrongful imprisonment and revenge on FU II, the abstruse character who framed them.



Should you ever need evidence of the way confinement wages those it enters, look no further than this perverse sort. Mamma is a huge blubbery guy in a nappy. Cap'n Hank comes wielding a pair of arctic pistols. Hutch has a fondness for women's dresses. Bianca is well every bit as psychotic as a bouncer, Vox is a tank girl turned funk guru, and Frank is not that far from losing the first letter of his name. Despite these bizarre idiosyncrasies, they each share unlimited aggression and unlimited firepower.

Cut them, the perfect backdrop for stop down yD shoot 'em up that sees our heroes moving through rooms, corridors and prison wastelands blasting their way out of anything that dares move a hair follicle. There are keys to collect along the way, accessing new areas and bringing them closer to escape, and naturally there are a multitude of pick-ups available that improve their energy and arsenal.

And that's loaded, although we mustn't forget to mention that it utilises some brilliant graphics (very bit as impressive as those seen on the PlayStation) and moves at a breakneck speed, making it the ideal game to vent all of those everyday frustrations on.

There are still a few levels to be completed and the programmers are breaking it to make it even faster, but going by what's already in place Loaded looks set to be a great success. Expect the explosive review next month.



Cap'n Hank goes hunting with his pistols. He is in fact a cyber pirate who is more machine than man. So don't expect too many human sympathies from him.



At the moment the only playable level is the first one. All the same, it looks fantastic, what with some great lighting et al.



Mamma is called mamma because it's the only word he's capable of saying. He seldom however speaks louder.



Vox demonstrates her fully powered-up laser gun. Admitting a little morbidity, one of the things that makes Loaded so attractive is the sight of bodies over the floor when you're utterly pulverised them. This points to the 'game from the past' style action which is always hot but simple enough for you to play it when you're utterly smashed!

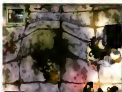
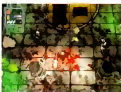


Some of the admirable fight searching blood with the splatters of blood. Lovely!



LOADED

Gremlin bring their blaster to the Saturn!



Also we see Fwask's legions firing turrets in action. They will remain waiting around until they kill something.



YOU'RE SO SPECIAL

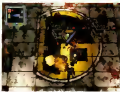
Each of the characters in Loaded comes with their own blow bomb. This is a unique special weapon that blasts every enemy on the screen into cosmic oblivion. Using all of the 32 bit power on offer these are stunning to watch, and refreshingly original. For example, Mamma uses a wobble bomb that sees the whole screen ripple. Vex unleashes an elegant spiral bomb, and Fwask sends out an army of homing teddies to fluff up any foes approaching!



Mamma goes to work with the help of his first lady. Born baby bond.



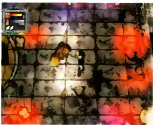
Fortunately for our heroes there are plenty of pick-ups around that replenish their health.



I see the future... I see babies giggling, I see fluffy animals dancing, I see love and happiness, but also I see...



...pew! Hips exploded! Death! Mayhem! Carnage! I was strong and desperate! And that's just in Loaded.



Hey! What's that? They're not in the game! Free will recognize them as Pop Will Get It Best! They have in fact contributed a song to the game and, hey, it rocks you know! Really damn rocks o&P Green!

letter



Wotcha Badniks, it's the SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE Letters Page again! Remember that we love to hear from all the readers of our magazine, no matter what you've got to say. Wondering what the exact dimensions of the packaging for *Titan Wars* are? Then drop us a letter and we'll throw it in the bin! We won't print any old rubbish you see, but it's still good for a laugh. Anyway, if you've got any old rubbish lying your brain, squeeze it onto a piece of paper and send it in to **DEATH TO FALSE METAL MAILBAG, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORY COURT, 35-37 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, ECH 3AA**. There's a full-size inflatable Robotnik for every member of the *Gunstar* Kawaii tribe who writes in with some real hot eye made from plants.

BAZOOKATONE "CRAP" BOMBSHELL

DEAR OFFICIAL SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,
Congratulations on having the courage to rubbish Johnny Bazookatone in issue 4 of your estimable magazine. My only criticism of your review is that you slipped up on the rating. Surely you meant to give it 10% and not 51%?

Occasionally I'll buy a game after seeing one review of it, and I almost did just that based on what *GamePro* magazine had to say about the PlayStation version. They loved it and gave it 90%. Hmm, I'm glad my local video store rents out Saturn games and I only had to pay £3.00 for a couple of nights of playing the garbage! What were the playtesters doing when they were supposed to be evaluating this particular title?

Perhaps the reason for my disenchanted ment with games is general at the moment stems from the fact that I should imagine I'm impatient as most people when it comes to waiting for new exciting and challenging games to be released. It saddens me some what to see that all the developers seem to be interested in is pumping out beat 'em up after beat 'em up. I don't mind seeing the same type of games released, but has there been anything new on the beat 'em up scene since they turned into 3D polygon affairs? Now we seem to be going backwards towards 2D Streetfighter efforts, and money spent on bringing us these old style games could have been spent dreaming up something new something that makes our 3D-BIT wonder consoles behave like they really are the latest step forward, not a step into the recent 16-BIT past.

Sega rally Championship is undoubtedly the best game for the Saturn to date, and when it's joined by *Wipeout* and *Destruction Derby* the Saturn will have a really decent set of games in its stable. These games while all featuring a driving racing theme are different enough to make it worth buying them all. It proves that even if developers can't think of a new game genre they can at least come up with different style of game within a genre.

Tim Kemp, Norwich, Norfolk.

Well Tim, it seems you've solved your own argument there. *X-Men* and *Virtua Fighter* are both groundbreaking titles within their genre, and have about as much in common as *Rally* and *Wipeout*, and are precious little. Games are progressing nicely at the moment, and the current re-workings of popular niches are generally of a high standard. You'd never handle the number and size of spites found in *X-Men* or *Alpha* with a 16-BIT system. And remember, you don't have to buy any games you don't like. But we know where you're coming from Tim, and we like it.

I AM A THIEF AND A SCOUNDREL

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,

Being the proud owner of a Megadrive 1, Megadrive 2, a 32X and a Saturn and because I've been reading games mags for several years now, I thought I had enough inspiration to write you a letter.

First let me explain why I own two Megadrives. What I haven't mentioned yet is that I also own a copybox. And because I'm not proud of that, I thought I shouldn't mention it in a sentence starting with "Being the proud owner". Anyway I've got a Megadrive 1 to play games on my copy box and a Megadrive 2 for my 32X, so I don't have to switch all the time. So why am I not proud about owning a copybox? Well not because it is immoral or something, but because it spoils the games you play on it and thus ones gaming capabilities. Just think about it - do you enjoy a game more if you bought it with your hard earned money or if you copied it after renting it?

When I first got my Megadrive six years ago I used to buy games and play them until I dropped. As such I used to be very good at them. After I had bought a copybox I played mostly copied games only for a couple of days and then the interest wore off. Only after getting a 32X for Christmas a year ago (yes I know I'm a spoilt git but I'm not complaining!) I actually started to play games again. And after buying a Saturn last August I've become the games playing freak I used to be again.

Having just mentioned the 32X brings me to another subject, people slagging the machine off. Admittedly the machine isn't as powerful as the other Next Gen machines, but it's much more powerful than we have seen up till now. It doesn't really matter because it's the games that count and the 32X boasts some fine examples. *Doom*, *Virtua Star Wars*, *Virtua Fighter* and *Chaos*, while not quite amazing in the graphics department are

all great games. It's just a pity there haven't been more of them, but then again it's the people slagging the machine off to blame for that.

People like that obviously aren't familiar with the two - in my opinion most important laws of gaming. These are: who gives a damn about the graphics if the playability is great, and it's the games that count, not the specifications of a machine. I'm even looking for a NES with a couple of classics before it's too late!

These two "laws" are the main reasons I've chosen to buy a Saturn and not a PlayStation. I must admit that I too was fooled by the PlayStation bias which swept through it a while and to some degree still does. However I used my insight of the games industry which I've obtained by reading games mags and revisited Sony's campaign. Now I and many others cheer and PlayStation owners weep, because the main reason to buy a PlayStation are *Playground* games which are now coming to Saturn. Finally people are beginning to understand that Saturn is a fab machine. Still, I'm happy Sony entered the games arena. Let's face it. Sega



Here are some pictures of games, you might not think this is particularly relevant to a letters page, but one of the letters is about them. So are

games became very lame [What a good rhyming sentence - SSB] ended after Nintendo was beat on in the 16-bit battle. Now after the arrival of PlayStation and Nintendo 64 due, Sega's games have improved unplein times. Even Sonic is back on track, with two new games!

This brings me to another subject. Am I the only one to think so or have Sega destroyed the great things about Sonic? I mean at first Sonic and later Tails, were drawn the way they should be: simple. Just as Mickey Mouse has been for all these years. This was the best thing about Sonic on the boxes of Sonic 1 and 2. You'll see he looks much better on Sonic 1. The same goes for the graphical style of the first game: 16 colours, not too much foreground scenery, neatly defined square platforms and play area and good looking colour schemes: great! not the fuzzy rough attempts of the rest of the series. I know Sonic has to be updated every time but they should have done it in a different way. This is not the only reason I like Sonic 1 best. While a huge play area is supposed to be great I found it off-putting. In every game but the first there were areas which you would almost never see, whereas in Sonic 1 you could develop a path to get all the rings in almost every act. In fact, this is what Sonic is all about: ring collect-ing! I know what I've said about Sonic 2 & etc also counts for Chiefta but he is largely made up for by the original concept method.

One final thing: why do all mags often consider 2D games outdated? I think the new sort of games Next Gen machines offer are a welcome addition to existing genres, not substitutes.

Anyway, congratulations on your excellent mag, say hello to every staff member for me and keep up the good work!

Rik, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.


 This is possibly the longest letter we've ever received or printed, but it brings up some salient points. Copying, like smoking, is both evil and foolish. It's a great way to stifle your interest in games, as Rik so rightly points out. In fact, it should be shot. Hoarse for piracy-free CD. As for Sonic, I can actually agree with you on this. It's a crap nostalgic thing, but I do think Sonic looked cooler in the first game (although the successive sequels were better games). However, like Mickey Mouse, Sonic has had to move with the times and fan's increasing recognition of him. After all, Mickey started life as a black-and-white thing with two little dots for eyes, before transcending that form and becoming the portly middle-aged-looking pink-faced giggling rodent we know and love. There's the breaks, kiddo.

FRUSTRATED HOUSEWIFE WRITES

DEAR SSM,

In last month's magazine you asked for letters on love lives. Well I got married on the 24th Jan '96 (Congratulations - SSB) and three days later my husband and I bought a Sega Saturn. I must say it's brilliant. The only quain I have is it's put paid to my idea of a honeymoon. My husband has a bad case of Worms which keeps him up till 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and I have become a Bug alcoholic. I know we did things during the wrong way we had the kids and then got married, but I did it over think our sex life would come second best to a very good console. Roll on the day when we can conquer these two games and our honeymoon starts.


A Very Frustrated Housewife, Newbury, Berks

 It's official! Sega games are better than sex! Which goes to show that the Saturn Mag staff aren't in fact a sad bunch of girlfriend-less mis-hippers, but an elite corps of cyber-brain-sex cutting edge Nintendo studs. Ahem.

HYPE-NOGOGIC MIND MACHINE

DEAR SSM,

I am writing to you about the ever ongoing battle zone which surrounds the gaming industry between consumers and manufacturers alike.


 Sonic, did he look better in Sonic 1, or is he now 3D incarnate the best we've ever seen so far? Why don't you write and tell us?

pages in magazines covering these products are all very much stereotyped - 'I've bought a Saturn because I wanted to snag all my PlayStation-owning friends off' or 'mine's better than yours so there'. Fraid not. I spent my hard earned money on the games system of MY choice, I made this choice myself because I bought it to please ME and not everyone else who would care to pass comment on it.

Now the point everyone's missing is this: manufacturers need this hype to a) sell products, b) develop better products and c) advertise the industry concerned. Admittedly I am a Sega fan but I'm not biased towards them. I enjoy playing PSK games as well but please do not ridicule other formats without concrete knowledge of what you're talking about. I have read so many letters like Robbie Moore's in issue 4 and I can't help but laugh. Where was his constructive criticism!

Keep the hype going, which keeps the gaming industry in the public eye but don't be unhappy with the system you own - if you're happy with it who cares what anybody else thinks.

Simon Perryman, Gattiside, Cumbria

 Hang on, how do we know that your cash is "hard-earned"? Everyone says that, and given that some of our correspondents seem to have almost limitless leisure time in which to indulge their Sega IT dreams to reason some of them are complete duffers who earn their money very very easily. The bastards. Anyway, not a bad argument there SL but you're a bit of a junior conspiracy theorist: it's more likely that people exhibit the so-called "better's better than yours" condition in an attempt at self-justification. It's a tricky thing buying a console, see how much you've invested & you'll resent your decision. It's not too much to ask to allow consumers to steady their doubts by vocalisation that you never know. Anyway, fine egalitarian sentiments at the end there, which I believe we can all learn from.

I DEMAND TAILS' ADDRESS


DEAR SIRs AND SIREsSES

I'll get straight to the point. I require some information, which will be of great value to me and I know you dear fellows and fellowesses will be able to provide me with it. Here goes. I am in desperate need of some background history about Sonic's two tailed orange fox chum dude. Pray tell me how did the little guy obtain his extra tail? Which zone did he come from? And most important of all how did he and Sonic meet? I would also be extremely grateful if you were to print out an address for Sega, along with a detailed description of it/des' post.

Your slave forever.

Amos

PS I will remember you when I'm rich and famous

 Worms. Personally I can't stand this game at all, but lots of other people seem to like it and I'm not going to argue with them. Tactless says.

 Miles "Tails" Prower hails from the beleaguered Green Hill Zone. Born with two freshish tails, Tails was picked off at an early age to Professor X's School for Gifted Animals, where he was trained to use his posterior additions to benefit animalkind. Shortly after graduating from Mutant Kitten games Tails absconded to aid Sonic in his second fabled Mobius-saving mission. The two have been friends ever since, although romantic involvement is strongly denied by both parties. Sega live at 288-270 Gamersbury Ave, Chiswick, London W4. PS You's better, pal.

Q&A

Howdy Sega partners. It's time for us to answer

some more of your feisty and inquisitive questioning. After all, we've got nothing better to do all day than sit around listening to you lot harp on about release dates and all that rubbish. Honestly, you should listen to yourselves sometimes. Yea, well, anyway, if you've got a question you'd like answered pop it off to us at **DESTROY THE STATE Q&A, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRORY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON EC6R 3AU.** We'll do our best to answer it.

CASE HEAD

DEAR SATURN MAG,

I am writing to you hoping that A) you'll answer my question and B) I'll get my letter printed.

1 Could you please tell me where I could get a storage case for my Virtua Cop CD? I bought it with the gun but didn't get a case and you do with the versions without the gun.

2 Will Battle Arena Tokidoken ever be available on a UK Saturn? The Jap import is retailing at £59.99 plus another £19.99 for the converter.

3 When will Mortal Kombat 2 and Sin City 2000 be available? We reviewed them months ago.

4 Do LucasArts plan to release PC games such as Day of the Tentacle and Rebel Assault on the Saturn?

5 When will Destruction Derby be available on the Saturn and which other PlayStation games are to be converted?

6 In your opinion is the Saturn capable of running a game such as Donkey's Championship minus the Sega 2 and will games such as this be released on the Saturn?

7 Do you require a converter to run American Saturn games on a UK system? Also will they run full screen and full speed?

8 I currently own VFA Daytona Virtua Cop Sega Rally RFA 95 Worms and Rayman. Could you suggest any other games to buy?

Finally could you please make clear when featuring games which are UK, Jap, American etc. and if they are the final versions.

Thank you,

Nick King, Haverthorpe, Sheffield, N. Yorks.

1 Try buying a copy through Max Ego's CD from your record shop and asking that it should be out to the shops by now. **2** They should both be out by the time you read this. **3** Mazakoshi, but not in the near future. **4** It's a safe bet most Every Interactive, Pyrobox and third-party games will reach Saturn. **5** They should take another two months. **6** It should be. **7** Yes. No. **8** Guardian Heroes, 007, StreetFighter Alpha (in a little while), Parox (a little), loads more. We always review final versions.

BE CO FEAR

DEAR SAM,

Your mag is absolutely utterly brilliant. Now answer my questions please.

1 When will these coin-ups appear in the arcades: Mortal Kombat Fighting Vipers, Indy 500 and Virtua Cop 2.

2 Will any of these games appear on the Saturn?

3 Do you think that the Arcade Race and the Virtua Stick give better gameplay than the ordinary joystick? Would you recommend me buying them?

4 Any news on Virtua Fighter?

5 I have heard a rumour that Sega are making plans for another Next Generation games system. It is supposed to be called the Eclipse and is to be released in 1998. Is this true?

6 What does the CC mean in Virtua Fighter 4 CC Ported Data? Are the sticks like photograph?

PS I've found out that if you shoot the book above the ground in the warehouse on the first level of Virtua Cop you get more points. Every time you fire at it you get an extra 100 points.

Marten Davy, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

1 They're all out now. A lot of them, hopefully. **2** Not really. The Virtua Stick is okay, but it's horrible for courses. **3** I'll come out this year. **4** Virtua, but a good name, though. **5** They are indeed still pictures. CD is the standard term for computer-rendered 3D graphics of a static or animated nature.

CHECK OUT MY BOX

DEAR SAM,

Please could you answer these questions for me?

1 Please could you print a picture of the box for W3 because I've seen two boxes.

2 Will Sega be releasing an add-on for the Saturn because Nintendo are for the Ultra 64?

3 Any news on a Sonic platform game? Like Sonic 5?

4 Is it worth keeping my Megadrive and selling my Mega CD?

Keep up the very good work.

David Ruddy, Llyth, Nr. Wrexham, Wales

1 I like it matters. One of them might be an import, so check the nationality before buying. **2** That's a dark reason for them to release one. **3** Out before the end of the year. **4** Yes.

SERIOUS BLOKE

DEAR SAM,

I am a serious Megadrive owner and have been for about four years now and have got a good collection of games including all the StreetFighter games. What I want to know is why StreetFighter Alpha is only on Sega Saturn and not on Megadrive? Or is it coming out sometime soon on Megadrive?

Yours sincerely,

Ben Sabane, Watford, Ireland

1 Sadly it appears that the Megadrive just isn't powerful enough to handle the speed and complexity of StreetFighter Alpha. Either that or Capcom are too lazy to put a Megadrive version in the pipeline. Take your pick.



The pose that looks like it's dodged mortality. MK 5.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL

DEAR SAM,

Please please could you answer these questions for a mad Saturn fan?

1 If AVA's version of Sonic does well do you think they will release a Sonic 2 and if they do will it have a new character?

2 Will there be a sequel to Daytona USA?

3 Will Air Combat which is out on the PlayStation come out on the Saturn?

4 Is there going to be a Clockwork Knight 3?

5 Will there be a sequel for Sega Rally and if there is will there be more cars and tracks?

6 Will there be any more Virtua games because there are already too?

7 Will there be any more games like Virtua Cop that involve using a gun?

This is the coolest and best mag around. Thanks.

Michael Ciesek, Exeter, Devon, Lancs.

1 DOES NOT COMPUTE. **2** Maybe. **3** Choo. **4** Probably, not counting Clockwork Knight Phase 2. **5** It's highly doubtful. **6** Oh yes. **7** Virtually indestructible.

DEMO CD TROUBLES

DEAR SATURN MAG,

The mag's great and gets my vote! Keep up the good work! Please answer my questions please!

1 When will Building 5 an licensed super hero game, the indestructibles be released?

2 The Aftermath looks great, when will it be out?

3 When will Deadly Sins be out?

4 I sent away for the demo CD your mag was offering, that was quite a while ago and I still haven't been sent my CD and I haven't had the cheque back, please could you explain what is going on?

Julie Swaine, Bristol

1 Not sure, sorry. **2** Not as sure as it's really 3. **3** Never if you're very lucky. **4** If your cheque hasn't been cashed, it's because we're not sure, sorry if it has, ring our Marketing department re the number at the back of the mag. Sorry about that.

THE KING OF Fighters '95



**BISH!
BASH!
BOSH!**

Dazed and confused you might be, what with VF1 and 2, Street Fighter Alpha, Darkstalkers 2, Toshinden, the X-Men and MK3 all going *chin to chin* for the coveted prize of **best one-on-one** beat 'em up. Next into the arena steps SNK's **The King of Fighters '95**.

ROB BRIGHT dons the robes and grants it an audience.





A clumsy stumble and it's too late! The pint has been inevitably spilled in trepidation you wait for the words... "Oo! Fall You just spit my fighting pint! Now what you gonna do about it?" Hmmm. So, what are you going to do about it? Well, there are a few options here. The first and, in my opinion, most noble action is to run away as fast as is humanly possible. Check to make sure you have an easy escape route, that there are no chains you might fall over, and that your antagonist doesn't have water strategically placed to prevent your exit. If this retreat is not a possibility, you'll have to resort to "plan two".

This is where you beg for your life. Don't worry about saving face. It may be that he's only out to humiliate you a bit, in which case give him plenty of time to throw lots of verbal abuse your way. Be as ingratiating as possible, perhaps even offering him all the money in your wallet. If this also fails, you're going to have to come to terms with the fact that a fight of sorts is inevitable. Let him throw the first punch. Even if it doesn't connect, fall to the

floor immediately and pretend you've been knocked out. This does of course leave you more vulnerable than ever, but let's face it, he's going to kick the crap out of you anyway. If you're the type who manages to muster up a little courage at the decisive moment, direct your punch to the groin at all times. Be warned though, if it doesn't stick him, you're more dead than ever. Presuming you get out of this situation alive, don't spend time cursing yourself for being a yellow belly. You are a yellow belly of course, but hey, you're hopefully still alive with only one or two permanent facial scars. Besides, why do you think beat 'em ups were invented? Precisely to get you through moments like this.

The Saturn has been home to a lot of therapeutic beat 'em ups of late. The King of Fighters '99 is the latest to join the illustrious ranks. SNK's game was first showcased on the Neo Geo where it has had several incarnations before, the last of which (KOF '96) introduced a new concept to beat 'em ups whereby fighters are split into teams of three. They still fight individually but when one of your team is defeated, the second takes over. The first brain to use up all their fighters loses. This idea is retained, although now you can customize your team, selecting whomever you like out of the 33 fighters to make up your trio. Another tradition in KOF is the use of fighters from assorted other beat 'em ups including Art of Fighting 2 and Fatal Fury. We are looking for the king of hardware after all. Add the combo's specials and super and you're just about ready. All that's left to say is fight! Or run away. It's up to you.



THE THREE RUCKATEERS!

What makes *Kof* such an unusual one-on-one beat 'em up is the fact that you can arrange teams of threes. This doesn't mean that six fighters can have a massive rack at once. These are tag teams: the idea is to use the same fighter until they're utterly powerless and then switch team members. If you're really hot about, you might be able to get through all three opponents consecutively using only one fighter. Alternatively, if you're really bad, you might find all three of your characters defeated by only one or two of your foes. *Kof* uses set tries, although it also offers you the option to customise and choose any three you like. This method of game play is effective in helping you get to grips with all of the different fighters and their styles. As has been mentioned though, in traditional team play the fighters are already separated into teams. There are eight in all and here they are:

KISAGARI, KANE AND YAGAMI

This trio are actually new to *Kof*, replacing the American team from the last game. They're pretty tidy too. Kisagari first featured in *Art of Fighting 2* where his performance wasn't rated as exceptional. Now though, he's much harder, using fire ball attacks like the spirit blast and having the ability to reflect projectile attacks. His special is a muscle punch which has a devastating effect. Silly Kane is a dangero wearing master with the stick. If he spins it he pulls off a flaming hurricane which is a ring of fire that rolls towards his opponent. He can also do a spawnee drop which uses him launching.

into the air to perform a drop attack as he wields his cane like a spear. He also uses his cane to pogo into flying kicks. Yagami is reputed to be the arch rival of Kyu and shares many of his techniques. Yagami's flame attacks are a pleasant violet colour rather than red though, and his combination attack differs from *Kof*'s spinning kick combo, by using a strong punch followed by three successive floor fire balls.



Kis demonstrates his propensity for a spot of high kicking. The backgrounds are active, the grass waving and the flames flaring!



Ralph takes on Max. His team, which includes Heidern and Clark are certainly the better off, something made evident by the smiling furl in the background.

HEIDERN, RALPH AND CLARK

This motley crew all hail from Brazil, led by Heidern, a man who looks like he belongs in the luftwaffe, they present an awesome fighting force. Heidern uses a flash punch and a very nasty energy drill to get the better of his opponents. In some ways he's just too hard meaning playing as him gets a bit boring. When he's your computer opponent however he makes for a good fight. Ralph sports a decidedly tasteless bandana and bomber jacket, although he makes up for it with a somersault/rolling attack. Clark also sports a bomber jacket and uses moves very similar to Ralph.





KIM, CHANG AND CHOI

Quite an odd bunch these three. Their fighting styles are all very individual due to their differences in size. Kim looks about the most normal out of the three of them and his attacks are fairly conventional, using a karate style to pull off flip kicks and the like. Chong on the other hand is a bit of a freak, what with his ball and chain that he swings in on enemies and his habit of powering up by head butting himself with it. Likewise, the small and wily Choi, a kind of crippled Freddy Krueger, performs somersaults which act as combination attacks.



Benimaru, the guy with the pensive peek hair cut, combines his flying kick so Joe. In this background the fighters jump from the platform into the water, which is very shallow by the way so that they don't drown. Unfortunately though there are no trips through the bay on the back.

KYO, GORO AND BENIMARU

Kyo has a reputation for being the most effective of all the fighters in Kof. This is something all but confirmed by his powerful range of attacks and his speed. Mostly he uses fire, be it as a crescent smash or wave smash, both of which pummel opponents. Benimaru has a large white Mexican and his moves are all pretty standard including karate style kicks and punches. Goro is the strongest among them, thumping the ground to dock his opponents and pulling off a special move, rather mysteriously called the cloud toss.



The settings in Kof are used to store the backgrounds and a few other bits and pieces. This means that more space is left on the Saturn for all of those combos and special moves.

ATHENA, KENSOU AND CHIN

Athena is not the shop where you get those posters of huge muscle-bound guys holding babes. No sir! Athena is in fact a school girl! At least, that's what you'd think until she flings it off and reveals her disco dance outfit underneath! Her main effect is a psychic fire ball, although she is also capable of reflecting attacks. All members of this team use psychic attacks in one shape or another. Kensou uses a lightning ball as his psychic weapon but he also sports a dragon ball and a variety of roundhouse kicks. Chin is the by now standard drunk guy, using his bottle of booze as a weapon. It swings out into his opponents. He also pulls off a comical leap that leaves him grasping the head of his enemy.



Olong (above and left) is a very fat guy indeed. Not only is he fat though, he also carries a huge ball and chain which he doesn't hesitate to swing at his opponents. But his size makes him one of the slowest characters.



The brothers go head to head in combat!



Andy seems to be getting the better of it.



Athena begins a fight wearing a school girls outfit. She then whips it off! Once I say!



One of Athena's specials is a fire ball. Athena is dead hard though and has loads of specials.



TERRY, JOE AND ANDY

Those with a retentive knowledge of beat 'em ups will recognise these three characters from Fatal Fury. They are an excellent team using super-powerful specials and some classy combinations. Terry Bogard might look like a lack of mechanic but his moves are very effective, including a punch to the floor that sparks a lethal fire ball. Andy dresses in a regal red and gold, probably to make his flying kicks all the more devastating and employs a dem busting punch. Joe, does a rising sun head bend and goes about doing super roundhouse kicks.



There are over 2000 possible team combos!

PICK 'N' MIX

Although fighters are already arranged into teams of three, the Team Edit mode enables you to pick any three out of the 24 fighters meaning you can assemble your favourite three fighters in the same team. In fact it allows you over 2,000 possible combinations meaning there's almost no end to the kind of team you can put together.



KING, YURI AND MAI

This is the all-female ensemble but if you're expecting an easy time of it think again. What they lack in bulk they make up for in speed and agility. Stressing those ever-blurring boundaries, King as the ironically names herself wears a bikini. She looks a bit like Princess Of actually but don't submit to her deceptively charms because she'll unleash a fire ball on you. Mai dresses like an Irish pixie and moves with bewildering agility. One of her specials sees her jump and project a lightning ball onto her enemies. The most effective of the trio though is probably Mai. Her fan wave and lethal fans which she throws out like boomerangs are her most notable attacks.



ROBERT, RYO AND TAKUMA

This team must have learnt their art from Street Fighter veterans Ryu and Ken because their moves are almost identical. This means that they all use dragon punches and fireballs, coupled with some unique attacks of their own. Ryo and Takuma both have the rapid attack punch while Robert favours the kick. This ability to attack at such a furious speed and their unity of style makes them one of the most powerful and accessible teams in the game. They're not the most surprising trio though.



CARTRIDGE?

So what's the point of this cartridge then? Well, at its most basic this is simply a way of expanding the memory capacity. In case you didn't know, game data on CD is transferred to the Saturn's internal RAM. In order to make a good conversion from the Neo Geo [the Kof cartridge was 250 megabits], SNK decided to include a 16 megabit cart to store backgrounds among other things. Thus they could not assure that the Saturn version would look every bit as good as the Neo Geo's. It also means that the loading time is very quick indeed it's true that Kof could have been converted without a cartridge but this would have meant losing the refinement of the animation. X-Men for example, lost a third of its frames of animation when it was converted from the arcade. In short, what the cartridge does is ensure that this conversion is totally tip-top and that all the perfectionists at SNK don't start grumbling. As much as anything else though, it points to the flexibility and adaptability of the Saturn, and that's not something that the PlayStation could boast of now is it?

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

As yet, The King of Fighters '95 hasn't been signed up by anyone for release in Europe. This is a bit of a surprise considering how popular it has proved in previous incarnations and the fact that it's dead good too. If it was to find a software house prepared to publish it, the price would probably be around the £60-£70 mark, not cheap admittedly, but then there are 24 fighters in this game. What do you think? Yes you! The reader! If you'd like to see it released in Europe write in and tell us. We here at Sega Saturn Magazine wield unmeasurable power and if enough of you want to see Kof on your shelves then we'll pull strings and fiddle with knobs in an effort to get the fat cats interested. People power you hear!





SHOWCASE MAGIC CARPET

RU



GRATS!

Once upon a time, there was a land inhabited by great wizards. But wizards, being a bit tetchy and all, are always partial to a bit of war. So, one day they all decided to have a big fight to see who was the hardest. Of course, this turned into a bitter battle that lasted for years, and, when a wizard came along that was tough enough to beat all the others into submission with just one wave of his bejeweled hand, what did he do? He took all the power for himself, turning all the other wizards into slaves of the dark side. And now it's up to **SAM HICKMAN** to restore the world's equilibrium and show those poncey wizards *exactly* who's the boss.



Preparing for an assault on a fortress and here we go! Will the young wizard make it? How will he fare against other, more experienced wizards? We don't know, but we do the his his his in doses.



Oh, [adopt psychedelic sixties-style cowering] let me take you on a magic carpet ride. Though the la la la and dee dee dee dee.

Sorry, I can't remember the rest of the words. But it's all a bit wishy washy anyway. Sung by degenerate long hairs happy to be alive you see. Not like today where we all have to be soul-tormented and plucked in unhealthy places to get a point across. Still, while we're on the subject of rusty walls and baskets of nesting pos, let me remind you that war is not big and not clever either. Although in the realm of videogaming, it can't be denied that it's damned good fun. In fact, ever since the dawn of videogaming time there's been the war game, but it's only fairly recently that there's been any real variation on the traditional point and blast theme.

But, with the arrival of 3D-bldom, things have changed a bit. For a start, it's possible to produce something with really slick graphics and it's also possible to play things out in 3D. What's more, you can also convert existing PC titles with very little bother at all. Which of course, is what has happened with Magic Carpet.

This appeared on the PC around two years ago and won numerous awards for its innovative gameplay and even spawned an equally quality sequel. Based loosely on the traditional "war" theme, Magic Carpet is set in a mythical Arabian world where wizard build up castles that are (hopefully) impossible to penetrate. Of course, they don't just do this for the fun of it - far from it, what they're actually trying to do is steal all the world's magic for themselves, thereby gaining ultimate power over every other wizard in the land. But you're not going to be involved in such tyrannical exploits. No sir, your job is to restore the equilibrium within the land back to an acceptable level. To do this, you're going to have to search the land for mana of your own to place in your very own castle. And that means bagging, borrowing, stealing, and even killing to get what you want...

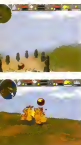


MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

So, putting it that way, it doesn't seem as though this is much of an ego-warrior type game at all. But it is. It's just that, on the surface, it might seem as though you're a power-crazed wizard hell-bent on ruling the world. But, that's what you have to do these days if you want to get any attention for your cause. And, when there's around 75 levels to be sorted out in all, there's no doubting that you're going to have to be heavy-handed on the weaponry and even heavier on the tyrannical, slightly insane look that every dictator should adopt. (Practice yours today!)

SPEAK AND SPELL

Luckily, there are a few devices designed to make your life considerably easier.



For a start, you're a wizard, right? And what do wizards do apart from creating powerful potions made out of frogs' feet? They cast spells. Luckily, there's plenty of spells up for grabs in Magic Carpet, and they can all be used to combat both enemy wizards and violent beasts. The spells range from simple firing weapons and castle building abilities to volcano instigators, walls of fire, meteorite showers and invisibility power. Most of the better spells only pop up in the later levels of the game, but generally, spells are handed out as you need them, which makes things much more interesting than if you were given all the spells automatically at the beginning of the game. However, spells can be located in obscure places, and once you've spotted them, collection can sometimes trigger off traps – which usually entails millions of beasts who will magically spring from nowhere and unleash their full power on you.

IF AT FIRST...

When you initially play Magic Carpet, it may seem daunting, what with all the menus you're expected to access and everything, but persevere a while and you'll find that it is most enjoyable. Sure, there's been shoot 'em ups on the Saturn before, in fact there's even been some half-decent ones like *Parade Dragon*, but there's been nothing like *Magic Carpet*. After all, where else do you get to pillage castles and wreck villages without paying the consequences? In fact, if you think about it, *Magic Carpet* is a multi-dimensional game – on one level you're mission to collect man, while on another

you want to build a great castle, on another you're beating off wizards who attack the moment your back is turned and yet another, you're expected to save the world. Sound difficult? That's because it is.

MAGIC CARPET IS MYSTICALLY REVIEWED ON PAGE 32



Barrr! You've restored the world!



Fly through this to teleport across the island.



Now very own castle – needs protecting though.



Enemy balloons in the area! Destroy at once!



An enemy wizard and a terrible worm thing.



Loads of lovely mana for your collection.

EYE EYE!

Since *Magic Carpet* was converted from a PC title, it does tend to be rather heavy in terms of on-screen information. In fact, at any one time, you can be expected to take in up to five pieces of information. So, here's a quick rundown of everything you're expected to know about.

1. ALL SEEING EYE

This is probably the most important icon on the whole screen. Acting as a mini-map, it indicates where you are in the land and what monsters are about to launch an attack. It also indicates whether other wizards are in the area and monitors the amount of mana they're about to risk from you.

2. CASTLE STATUS

Top, as well as avoiding attacks from beasts and enemy wizards, you'll have to keep a keen eye on the state of your castle too. While you're off and about collecting mana, other wizards can attack your castle. This icon shows the extent of damage they're inflicting, and when it starts flashing, you should make an attempt to go back to the castle and sort out the culprits.



3. BALLOON STATUS

Once again, displays the health of your balloon. Other wizards can attack your balloon, but more importantly, this indicates the amount of mana you've collected. When the balloon bar reaches its limit, you must return to the castle so you can build an extension for the extra mana.

4. YOUR STATUS

Obviously, monitors your own health. If you're attacked by beasts, expect to see a serious depletion in your health bar.

5. CURRENT SPELLS

Simply indicates which spell is selected at any given moment.

However, that's not all there is to it. In addition to the various health bars which must be constantly monitored, there's also stores of knowledge to pay attention to. These basically display your intelligence level in terms of restoring the world's equilibrium. Translated into simple game-speak though, this "knowledge" basically refers to your mana levels or spell-casting abilities. Once you reach the white level indicator on each of the three knowledge sections, you've restored the equilibrium and are ready to attempt the next level. Incidentally, if your balloon bursts, all the mana it carries will be lost and your castle will dispatch another balloon.

By setting the lines on fire, you may inadvertently destroy enemy structures – at the same time hiding an extra mana.





THE MAP

In addition to the all-seeing eye, there's a larger map that can be accessed any time you like. This monitors the complete country and shows all areas which are inhabited by either people or beasts, and also reveals the whereabouts of enemy castles as well as secret stores of mana. It's necessary to refer to the map fairly often as it's quite easy to become disoriented.



It's possible to attract enemy castles simply by blasting them with your weapons. However, you will be subjected to an attack by the enemies who guard the castle, although one of them, picking up your opponent's mana should be easy.



This is a dead island. Well, I think it is anyway.



These statues set off a trap when first laid.



Watch out for the skeletons - kill immediately if possible.

CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS

When you're passing over each land, you'll notice that there are settlements in certain areas. The people that live in the village are basically neutral parties, although you can persuade them to be on your side by blasting them with your mana bullets. All of their mana will then come under your control, although you can't actually pick it up and move it back to your castle. But, it's really useful to get these villages under your control, because every time one of the inhabitants build or sell something, you could receive a mana boost. It's also useful as the population will sometimes take it upon themselves to fight for you if under attack from another wizard. However, even if you don't want the towns under your control, under no circumstances attempt to blast them away if you try and shoot them, they will turn against you and become extremely vicious, launching attacks on you from every direction. Don't say we didn't warn you.



MANA FROM NIRVANA

When you blast any nasty-looking enemy to pieces, you'll notice that little golden balls spill from their freshly-slaughtered guts. One blast from your mana button will turn all the balls into silver mana ready for collection by your balloon. However, you can't collect any mana at all unless you've already built a castle to put it in. So, as soon as you have collected the castle spell, the best thing you can do is find a suitable spot for your empire. And in subsequent levels, this is the first task you should undertake (the castle spell remains with you for every level once you've discovered it initially).

Even with a castle to put all your mana it's still not possible to collect balls until all the required mana has been discovered. The balloon can only collect a certain amount of mana and once full will have to return to the castle to drop supplies off: this means that you will also have to return to the castle and expand the castle to encompass the increasing mana supplies. Once your castle is big enough, more balloons will be provided and you'll be required to return to base less often.



SHOWCASE



GOING TO THE ZOO...

There's an abundance of wildlife in all the Magic Carpet levels, and as you progress through the game you'll bump into more and more animals. Of

course, you'll spend most of your time running away from the majority of them, as they can be extremely hard. And just to you know exactly what you're in for when they appear, here's a quick rundown of each beast and its particular speciality.

WORMS

Worms appear in most levels and don't take much to get rid of. They can be quite dangerous when there's more than a couple, although single blasting should do the trick.



SKELETONS

Armies of undead skeletons parade the plains, and will attack villages to gain more members for their army. Shoot arrows at your carpet if you get too close.



CRABS

Come in the form of eggs, baby crabs or fully grown old-fiddlers. Throw fireballs or lightning bolts and will lay their own eggs if allowed to grow too big.



KRAKEN

An enormous sea creature, the Kraken appears in the water levels to shoot his long tentacles and can even spit you if you get too close. If you get too close, it can spit you if you get too close.



BIRDS

These are so irritating. They can only be shot effectively at close quarters, and because they fly around so quickly, can dodge out of the way easily.



GENIES

These crafty tricksters will steal all your mana the moment your back is turned. They won't cause any real damage but are able to teleport themselves all around the island.



APES

Huge, lumbering animals who chuck boulders whenever you venture near them. They will also attack your carpet if they think they can get away with it.



WYVERN

Without a doubt, the most dangerous of all flying creatures. Will attack everything in its path, and is immune to some spells. Can also regenerate energy when injured.



DEES

Another creature that rises lightly on the intrusion sight. Dies with ease you if you attempt to escape.



EMU RIDERS

These birds can reach massive speeds across land and carry vicious archers who will attack at a moment's notice.



DRAGONS

Like worms, except that they can take to the air, making them much faster and more agile than their ground-bound counterparts.



TROLLS

Although trolls look pretty menacing, they're actually quite harmless as long as you lay the firepower on heavy.





Ask: The world is magical in its natural splendour, isn't that what it's all about, just being out there, enjoying it.



SEEK AND DESTROY

So, you've got the hang of the carpet and have even completed a few levels with ease, seeing off a couple of wizards with no problem at all. Well, why not try your hand at something a little more complex? Why not rip over to your enemy's castle and blast it to pieces! Sounds like fun! Of course it does – this is probably one of the most satisfying areas of the game. First, sneak up to the walls of the castle, then swoop in, blasting the castle's defenders with a burst from your machine gun. Then, when they've all disappeared, carry on blasting until the castle spills out its mana. You'll then see a rather forlorn wizard appear from the mist, who will make a final effort to see you off. It doesn't take much firepower to make him disappear though, and you'll be satisfied in the knowledge that he'll have to build his castle up again from scratch! One word of warning though: if you're going to get into this type of strategy, expect the favour to be reciprocated when you're busy over the other side of the island!



HELLO MY FRIEND

When you first play Magic Carpet, it may seem as though collecting mana and blasting wormy things is all very good fun. And not too difficult either! But hold on there gun-crazy fool, things aren't quite that easy. After the first couple of levels, you may notice the presence of other wizards. At first, you

may think it polite to try and make friends with these bastards of magic-ery, but fear not, they will soon become annoying beyond belief. Spend an absolute age killing four or five worms and witness them swooping in to collect all your hard earned mana! Even if you try to blast them out of the area, they will only return a minute or so later to pillage your stores once again. In fact, the only way to be sure that they won't nick your balls is to guard them until your balloon turns up to collect them. And even then they will still hang around – they will even blast mana that the balloon is collecting in an attempt to prevent you collecting more energy! So, the trick is don't leave them alone for a minute. Of course, if this proves impossible, you could always follow your enemy around, let him do all the hard work, then steal his mana at the appropriate moment!



MECH

Some noise



Much as I like robots, and let's make no mistake I *do* love robots, there are certain things that I find hard to fathom concerning their behaviour. Let's explore the lighter side of **mechanical engineering...with Rad.**

Wouldn't life be great if we all had giant robot battlesuits instead of clothes? You'd have a discreet skyline battlesuit for weddings, unless you were getting married, in which case you'd wear a huge wrought-iron contraption with multiple missile launchers and a big chainsaw. There'd be a power-dressing battlesuit for important work meetings, with big shoulder pads loaded with napalm incendiaries. There'd be little kiddie romper battlesuits that would only be armed with weedy weapons like machine guns. Of course, everything in the world would have to be ten times bigger to accommodate us all, and we'd all have to have secret basement control centres where we'd get dressed. But it'd be a great boon to society. There'd be no more discrimination because no-one would be able to tell who's inside each suit. Low self-image would be similarly eradicated (unless you had a cheap mech from Millets or something). There'd be a return to traditional values of politeness and good manners because even little old ladies would be able to blow you up. And if you equipped each war robot with pilot-sustaining intravenous life support systems it would also put an end to world hunger. The world could unite under a common flag and set about exploring the stars – made easier because we'd all be able to breathe in space thanks to our mechanical outfits.

Sadly though it would seem, as usual, that the military gets to keep all the best stuff, like tanks and high explosives. Such is the reasoning behind Gungriffon. Whilst this title does give you the opportunity to see life as a mech for yourself, sadly there's no pleasant trips down to Salford's or anything to get you into the idea of an idyllic cybersociety. No, it's all war, war, war. The idea is that, as in George Orwell's 1984, all the continents of the world have united into massive uber-states and are having a bit of a handover over the world's energy resources, with there being a bit of an energy crisis and all that. So what better way to settle things than to start a massive conflict with plenty of oil-guzzling tanks and 'planes and robots. Your job, as Robot ool, is to storm numerous battlefields and destroy everyone else, apart from the few members of your team who you're supposed to protect. Still, it's more fun than just politely waving at your neighbours.



Woody! A few examples of mass destruction at work. Good on you, son.



A foggy scene, misty and dreary. It must be October, isn't it.



A fiery explosion lights up the night time. Although a torch might be better if there was.



This enemy robot has been drift right twice by an overcast shed. Actually, it hasn't. But it has been damaged, although it's still firing.



The briefing screen...



The mission complete report...



Mission select screen...



SUFFER AND DESTROY

Efficiency is the watchword of Gungnir. You've more chance of exceeding your time limit or deserting the battlefield in pursuit of the enemy than being destroyed. But don't let that make you think it's an easy life. Far from it, as the Exercise Mode demonstrates. This training facility presents players with a straight blasting mission loaded with hirable forces and armed with a harsh chrono-calling. As usual your objective is to destroy all, but the two operations on offer - Beginner and Expert - concentrate on targeting and blasting, set as they are in simple straight (or fairly straight) strips of mission territory. Time is the most important aspect - kill all and hit the far boundary in the least time and make the high scores table. This is a good way to familiarise yourself with the controls of your mech and an equally good competitive means to twist you and your pals. But it's not a good way of completing the game, because you can't.



In this dramatic scene as enemy helicopters crash into your line of fire it is opening week. Shouldn't have shot it, then.



LET IT SLIDE

Of course the good thing about having a man-shaped robot is that you can make it do things that normal humans can't do. Like play the piano underneath. Or wee around corners. But your big robot can do neither of these things. It can, however, slide around without moving its legs. Alright, so break-dancing and drunken tramps can do this too, but we did say normal humans. Anyway, sliding is a useful thing. It allows your mech to remove itself from harsh combat situations without turning its back on the enemy. It also allows you to manoeuvre more easily through crowded environments, such as cityscapes, without trapping your bulky frame on the corners of buildings or suchlike.

I used to have a Star Wars figure that looked like one of them, except it was blue. And it made a crap climbing sound whenever you moved its little legs. I thought it was great.

That distant plume of smoke is evidence of the effective range of your guns. Or perhaps you've just run away after blowing something up. Can't tell really.



These chaps are very fast, and have many guns. They surround you and kill you many times. Only to defeat is possible that. (sought is really good enemy)



I AM ROBOT - HEAR ME ROAR!

War robots are cool - they've got loads and loads of guns. And because Gungnir is an arcade game and not a simulation, whilst there is ammunition to worry about there's usually enough to go around. And heck, if one of your weapons does run low on juice you've got another three to revert to (including a machine gun which never runs out). Indeed, so many guns clutter up the otherwise beautiful simplicity of violence we're going to take the time to tell you about all of them.

GUN: Your main gun, imaginatively titled Gun. It fires quite powerful rockets, one of which is usually enough to send a tank or helicopter to its doom, and a couple of which are sufficient grim reaping material for enemy robots. Whilst ammo is limited you start each mission with about eighty shots in your Gun, which does the trick quite nicely for the bulk of the stage.

RPG: Rocket Propelled Grenades. About six of these are used up with each firing of your rocket pack, but they're devastating in their effect. These bombs shower over the enemy, decimating when they hit the ground (or your foe) and destroying all within the burst radius. Best used against groups of tanks, or any other things that make the foolish mistake of collating themselves too close together.

MACHINE GUN: The trusty never-run-out-of-bullets option. This is the least powerful of your armaments, although it's still pretty handy against other War Robot Mech Robots Walkers, buildings and other slow or non-moving things you can keep a bead on for a while. Don't overheat with use, however, meaning it needs a rest every now and then.

ATM: Automatic Transaction Machine, or cash point to the rest of us. Actually, that's not true. Well it is true, but not in this case. You'd probably not get far fighting giant war robots by chucking cash machines at them. These ATMs are Anti Tank Moobies. You only get a few of these, because they're the most powerful weapons in the game. And strangely they're best deployed against air craft.



Sometimes in the heat it says you're more likely to run out of time than get killed. Well that's an exaggeration, in fact you're far more likely to be blown to smithereens well before the time limit runs out. Please remember this whilst reading.

LEAP OF STRAFE

Monsters! Heaters! They came from the sky! That's how an eleventh-century peasant might have reacted to some of the enemy forces in *Gungnir*, although you might know them better as aeroplanes and helicopters. What's essentially funny in their construction – all the better to become airborne with – aircraft are a persistent and easily underestimated threat. Helicopters aren't so bad. They're slower and more likely to hang around in one spot than 'planes and don't have the same level of armament. But the low-flying aeroplanes are horrible, sweeping over the screen and carpet bombing your terrain, causing heavy damage. Given their erratic flight paths, their speed and the limited angle of tilt your guns are allowed, aircraft are the hardest things to kill in *Gungnir*, despite only withstanding a single hit before plummeting to the Earth. But thanks to modern technology you can "come from the skies" yourself. Your mech is equipped with a booster capability which allows you to jump high into the air and hover for a few seconds, thus putting you on the same plane as the 'planes. From here it's a far easier task to locate, lock-on and destroy airborne targets. However, jump boosts require a lot of rocket fuel, and your warcraft only carries enough for three frings of the engines – so use them wisely.



Now it's time to think about writing these captions, as I'll have to amuse a Korean stream of consciousness.



EAT MORE CARROTS

British people like to talk about the weather, apparently. Either because it's so unpredictable and amusing or because we're speaking to a complete stranger on the bus who we never asked for a conversation but are now forced to either talk to about meteorological conditions or listen to a lengthy tale about the troubles with their life. Anyway, it's funny that despite our predilection for weather we hardly notice it's not there in our games. But that's not so with *Gungnir*. Oh no. Before each mission you're given a swift status report on the conditions outside. Not so you've got something to chat to the other soldiers about in quiet moments, but because it has a real effect on the proceedings. Misty, rainy or snowy weather reduces visibility, as does night (well, strictly speaking, a Weather). So what's a poor Mech to do? Why, switch on his infra-green night sight. What this leads the screen a detail-biting green hue it does actually allow you to see what's going on. Even better, the screen lights up in real colours whenever there's an explosion, making the whole process as confusing as it would be in real life. Ace.





See how the power screen info is such a good-time way, double it was the easiest thing we and Sai had ever passed for



Detroit, Motor City - the general golden game robots outside of New Orleans.



TIMMY THE TURRET

We all know what turrets are. They're the things you find at the tops of castles. Styly borrowing a design element from early feudal architecture, GangiIfan features turrets too. But, updating defensive mechanisms along with building materials, these turrets don't have arrow slits, they have big guns. The same guns detailed in depth elsewhere in this Showcase. And also unlike stone turrets these ones can move around. In fact, that's their very purpose. Pressing the correct button in conjunction with left or right on the D-pad swings your turret (so that part of your robot above the waist) in the desired direction. Releasing either button or direction re-centers the turret automatically. This means you can run past enemy forces to the side of you whilst still shooting them, blast past the corners of buildings whilst sheltering, easily waste evil forces surrounding you and run into lamp posts whilst showing off and not looking where you're going.



When night came we looked through the tower for a place to fix down. We decided on the floor. Not the ceiling.



A tank rolled over us, as it was wild. When I told Herb about it, he nearly died in his daisies. We ate a sandwich and talked. It was real.

GO SPEED RACER

Other than for the jet cyber aesthetics, there's no reason to build our robots in the shape of human beings. Otherwise someone would have by now and all tanks would look like a fearsome Barbara Cartland to scare the opposition. But that's where we're wrong, so forget we said all of that. Human beings are known for their adaptability, with our strange primate-derived bodies being surprisingly mobile over almost any variety of terrain. So, as you might expect, human being-shaped tanks have manoeuvrability as a strong point. Especially your one. Not only can it bestride lumpy ground like one of them chesskisses, it's also kitted out with a handy turbo mode, which folds it into a more aerodynamic shape, brings out wheels instead of cyber feet and puts the pedal to the gas in no uncertain terms. You can even drive backwards at this speed (or walk backwards if you want). Pressing accelerate once commences walking and twice activates turbo. Decelerating once or twice past standing still has the same effect in reverse.



ULTIMATE MORTAL KOMBAT



The story kontinues...

Mortal Kombat has a **fanatical following**. Players love the **digitised graphics**, **zany sense of humour** and **mutilation galore** that only this series can provide, and if ever there was a good excuse for them to **poop their pants with excitement**, it's now. **ED LOMAS** straightens up his **Mortal Kombat fan club badge** and prepares for the **ultimate conversion...**

Though the home conversions of the ultra-popular *Mortal Kombat* games have been pretty excellent, there hasn't yet been one which captures the true atmosphere of playing the game in the arcade. One of the best reasons for pumping a few coppers into the cabinet is to get the adrenaline rush from the BIG graphics, the booming speech, the comical screams and the non-stop over-the-top bang-bang-bang action. The home 16-bit versions featured all of the moves, characters and features, but unfortunately all missed out on these bonuses, meaning that the only way to get a real arcade *Mortal Kombat* fix was to go to a real arcade. Not any more...

Thanks to the extra power of the Saturn, this version of *Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3* not only contains all of the features from the arcade, it manages to capture the unique atmosphere of the arcade original. *Mortal Kombat* hasn't just been standing around the back streets all these years, peeping out every now and then to keep the fans happy, it's been hard at work becoming one of the best beat 'em ups around, and this showcase aims to show you what it's been up to since the distinctly sub-standard PlayStation version.



KILLER KOMBATANTS

The series has gradually expanded on the original seven playable characters to become twelve, then fifteen, and now an amazing twenty-two in this latest version! A bit of basic mathematics means that there are seven new characters to get your head around, and these are they.

JADE

First sighted in *Mortal Kombat 2*, though this is the first time she's been playable. Jade carries a fire staff and throwing blades, and possesses the unique ability to become invincible to projectile attacks. Another useful move is her Johnny Cage Shadow Kick variant, which can easily be tagged onto other moves for an easy combo. Her staff features heavily in her fatalities, as Jade either impales her victim on it, or sticks them on the end and shakes them to pieces! She can also use her magnificent staff as a pegu stick when she's feeling friendly, or transform herself into a kitten and spin around her opponent until they explode!

Tournament Prospects: Jade's variety of projectile attacks makes her a difficult character to get near, and her invincibility can make it tricky to keep her away. She has got some devastating combo attacks, and they can be made worse by becoming invincible, running in close and performing a 7-hit before your opponent can work out what's going on - as you'll find out if you ever play against a computer-controlled Jade!



One of Jade's variety of blade throws.



This smoking kick is just like Johnny Cage's.



For this fatality, Jade sticks her staff in her opponent's stomach and shakes them to death.



Jade also uses her staff for this fatality, by apparating her opponent onto it.

REPTILE

He jumped from being hidden in *NK 1* to being playable in number 2, only to disappear for *MK3*. Guess what? He's back again in *Ultimate*, only this time he's got more moves than ever. His Suction Globe can now be launched quickly or slowly, and he's got a great new dashing elbow attack, where he trots past his opponent and smacks them in the back, sending them flying. On the fatality side, Reptile can either eat his opponent slice by slice, or yank up and on them, melting their skin away. One of the funniest moves in the game, however, is Reptile's Animality, where he morphs into a monkey and scuttles off after his terrified opponent! Survival!

Tournament Prospects: Reptile's strength is his ability to juggle opponents, hitting them many times before they touch the ground. Another bonus is his invincibility, which is totally useless against the computer, but a good wind up.

Reptile can turn into a monkey. Does hee it.



Reptile's new elbow move is funny, but not.



KITANA

Kitana is more like her *Mortal Kombat* character than any of the others, with no new special attacks to speak of. Her main weapons are still the good old razor-edged fans, which are used as projectiles, as well as good head-chopping blades. Kitana can still kiss like no-one else, though this time her unfortunate victims don't get fatter before exploding, they get taller! Hidden in her skin-tight costume is a bottle of bubble liquid, as can be seen in her Friendship; while her Animality sees a tiny white rabbit maul her opponent to death - just like in that Monty Python film (you know the one).

Tournament Prospects: Kitana's lack of enhancements doesn't make her as exciting to play as some of the other characters, though her excellent corner juggle combos still work - and they can do loads of damage. Precise timing is needed to activate them, but the practice is worth it as a few good combos can be enough to win.



Kitana's fan fatality is the same as before.



The fans are particularly useful in this one.



SCORPION

It was obvious that one of the most popular characters would make it back into the series after missing *MK3*, and back he is. Scorpion's moves are pretty much the same as in *MK2*, only he's lost the ridiculous Leg Take-down move that no-one ever used. That trusty harpoon is just as useful as ever, and it's the perfect thing for setting up combos.

Scorpion's hidden weapons are his axes which are used at close quarters, mainly in combinations. The boring old Flame Breath fatality is about the same as it was, but his new fatality is excellent. Scorpion raises his arms, calling upon a load of undead clones who come out of the ground and kick his



opponent to hit under the cover of darkness. What creature would you expect Scorpion to turn into for an Animality? A penguin which lays exploding eggs, of course!

Tournament Prospects: Anyone can play as Scorpion because his special moves are so simple, yet effective. Even though his strengths make him good for beginners, this doesn't stop him from being a useful character. The Teleport Punch, for example, can be tagged onto the end of an aerial attack or can be used to escape from the corner.



Once you've got a foe by the throat, whip out your axes and get them with a big combo.



When you whp, submerge your mask from hell to help kick the axels off your opponent.

MORE TO KOME...

When you first play UMK3 on the Saturn, there will only be four extra characters, as well as a playable Snake - the others have to be accessed from the Ultimate Kombat Kode screen. This appears after the Game Over message and enables players to enter one of three hidden "kodes" to access one of three hidden characters. Before you arcade freaks get all excited, the kodes are different as there are now only six symbol boxes as opposed to the arcade's ten. Happy hunting!

MILEENA

The MK2 female clone returns, and she's pretty much identical to last time. Her best new finishing move is where she eats a pot of nails, then spits them across the screen into her opponent!



Mileena can turn into a shark and choke her opponent to death with her toxic bones.



She can also eat a pot of nails and spit them across the room. Don't try it at home, kids.

ERMAC

Rumours of Ermac have been around since error messages appeared in the first MK game, but at last he's real! His lifting move is perfect for setting up juggle combos, and he's one character to be very worried about.



This finished looks a really cool hanging move. So get those ear muffs on people! It's nice slow and big, meaning it's easy to hit enemies.



Ermac's so hard that he just needs to wail and people explode to dust! It plays havoc with his goodiebag you know.

OLD SUB ZERO

Fed up of playing MK3's non-range Sub Zero? Find this old version of him and you can play exactly as you did in MK2. Yep, even the excellent floor freezing move.



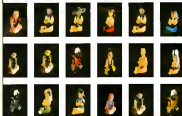
Everyone's favorite Sub Zero never from MK2 is available again - the floor freeze.



Did you know that Old Sub Zero is the new Sub Zero's dad? It's true!

Babalities!

Welcome to the Mortal Bribes.



There's a story screen for each new character.



Babal's best Babality infuses someone's head.



Snake of the friendships are just plain weird. Here, Snake shows a bubble for his victim, and then it pops in his face. Hehehehe.



The excellent 4-player team battle can be played just as well with only 2 players - each player has two characters.

OF COURSE THERE'S...

As well as the seven new characters, the original MK3 fighters are in there, including Smoke who is now playable.



Jax's Move seems look people to hit.



Jax can also do a Monty Python impression.



Rang Lee spins around and sends opponents into him from anywhere on the screen. When they hit him, they are instantly liquidised.



Liu Kang can still become a dragon.



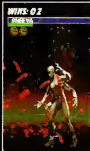
Sub-Zero shows enemies the uses of ice by freezing and then crushing them.



Stryker makes more effective use high explosives when he wins.



Cyra does that funny dance that makes it look like your legs are crossing over.



Gitar can rip the ball with the wall.



Ghoro just sends an opponent into the floor.



Nightwolf focuses the moon's beam.



Sindel's sexuality can be her weapon to hit her opponent.



Gitar can rip the ball with the wall.



Shang Tsung turns enemies into green goo.



Sindel can screen people's title off.



Sarge's got two knee-related fatalities.



Smoke turns into a ball for his Animality and immediately runs red.

KONTENDERS READY?

What's the most annoying thing about one-on-one beat 'em ups? It's the way that you always have to play "winner stays on" when there are more than two people about, which often leads to fights when one player decides "I wasn't playing properly that round, let me have one more go" UMKZ solves the world from squabbling gamers by including four-player and eight-player modes.

4 PLAYER 2 ON 2 KOMBAT

There are two teams of two characters each. Four characters are selected and the fight begins. Characters 1 and 2 fight until one dies, then the second in that team takes over. It's not hard to understand, and it can also be played with just two players, meaning that you can pick two characters each.

8 PLAYER TOURNAMENT KOMBAT

Eight players each pick a character. People fight and the winner moves into the next round. The last one left wins the tournament. Easy. It's great fun if you've got seven friends and is an excellent way to prove that you're better than everyone in one go.



When you complete the game, these screens show the actors who were brave enough to get dressed up and pose in front of a live screen. They're very hard to beat.



KOMBAT COMPLETE!

Another of the new Ultimate bonuses is this screen, which appears when the game is completed. It gives tournament champions the chance to pick a reward from one of twelve of Shao Kahn's treasures, meaning that there are more reasons to finish the game than just to find out what happens to each character. Prizes vary from battles against hidden characters to a demo of all the finishing moves!



UNHEALTHY KOMPETITION

One of the features of the first Mortal Kombat tournament was that fighters were required to take on two fighters in one round, something that was left out of the next two games. These have returned in the Ultimate tournament, only they are now harder than ever, with Master level players being required to tackle three fighters on a single energy bar!



There's a second "Master" destiny in UMKZ.



This screen shows who has to be beaten next.



KRUSH THEM!

To balance the whole game out a bit more, extra moves have been added to some of the original characters, and a few moves have been altered. Stryker can use his machine gun to attack, Kano can roll vertically and Shang Tsung can morph into the new characters. As well as this, Smokey's leap punch now throws enemies higher in the air than before, leaving more time to initiate juggle combinations.

KRASH! KRACK! KERRANG!

One of the best things about Saturn *Mortal Kombat 3* is that it wasn't possible to do with the 16-bit versions: the arcade-perfect sound. To make sure that Shao Kahn's excellent speech isn't fuzzy or bad quality, the phrases spoken between rounds (Scorpion wins, fatality, etc.) are on the actual CD and are accessed seamlessly to give the same excellent sound as in the arcade. During fights, the arcade music is played from the CD and the crisp sound effects are handled by the Saturn's sound chip, though they are of such high quality that it's hard to spot the difference.

KOOL KOMBINATIONS

The combos (combination attacks) in *Mortal Kombat 3* were a massive step up from those in *MK2*, as they enabled players to string together loads of hits into a quick sequence, upon which a counter and damage reading would appear to confirm that a combo was performed. The system stays the same for UMK3, only many of the existing combos have been "tweaked" to even the score out a bit. For example, one of Kabal's combos was so popular and so easy to perform that it has had its damage rating reduced drastically to discourage players from using it. Extra hits can also be gained by starting the combo with air attacks, something not seen before in an *MK* game.



Shao Kahn and Old Snake appear in the intro.



When fighting in Hell, repeat your opponent through the roof to get to Shao Kahn's throne room. There may not be much point to it - but it sure is fun!

KOMBAT KLIMATES

UMK doesn't just bring back old characters from the dead, it introduces a few new backgrounds to go with them. Fight along the river banks, in the desert, in front of Shao Kahn's throne, along a thin ledge overlooking a swirling blue portal, or even in Hell itself! Hell is one of the best stages partly because it's one of the interactive backgrounds - you can knock an opponent into the lava in the distance. If you don't fancy fighting in Hell, simply uppercut your opponent into Shao Kahn's throne cave above and continue the fight there!



Looks good, huh? Sounds good, huh? Excited, huh? Certain yourself for one more month and you'll be able to find out what we really think in next issue's SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE review.



SHOWCASE PANZER DRAGON 2

All Artwork © SEGA™



SEGA SATURN

Where were you when we were getting Zwei?



SOME DAY YOU WILL FIND ME CAUGHT BENEATH THE LANDSLIDE, IN A CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA PLAYING ZWEI. PANZER DRAGON ZWEI THAT IS, THE STUNNING SHOOT 'EM UP SEQUEL TO THE STUNNING ORIGINAL. WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE EPISODES IN THE GAME NOW COMPLETE, ROB BRIGHT ASKS 'WHAT'S THE STORY?'



Expect the kind of graphics that made you weep in Panzer Dragoon Zwei. Sega promises landscape AAA!

Even though everything flying around on the screen wants to kill you, you can't help staring back and not time deeply to what is all.



For me, the essence of an image lies in the relationship between colour and light. The eye is a great decoder, but only by waiting and through our deceptions do we discover a quantifiable truth. Likewise, only by registering the intangible contours of space between the subject and object are we capable of evaluating the meaning in matter. Take this latest piece, Panzer Dragoon Zwei. You'll recognize at once that it has borrowed heavily from the romantic style, its use of broad structures, of organic exaggeration to the point of myth. You'll no doubt also be able to locate the influence of neoclassicism in some of the more disciplined and uncompromising plot formations. But that is by the by. For me, the unique and utterly new element in this radical work is its fluidity. One can actually feel its movement...

Hi! My name's Harvey Carlington. I'm an art critic. Or, to be more specific, games art critic. You may have seen a few of the exhibitions I've had the privilege of being curator of. There was 'Evolution in Polygons', a study involving the revolutionary artists behind the likes of VFs and Sega Rally. For them, panzer meant perspective, and I can only admire their dedication to the wide frame techniques established primarily by post-deconstructionist vorticism. Another exhibition I arranged was 'Journeys into Dissolution' where the minimalist ethos mingled with the flourish of 90's enamel to create an intriguing range of artistic cadences. One of these was the masterpiece, 'Johnny Bazookatone', a radical attack on the predictability of the psyche, using post-ironic tension to draw the observer into that very predictability and drown him in the maelstrom of the mediocre. Quite, quite marvellous!

But back to Panzer Dragoon 2, or 'Zwei' as it's known. (I would pointing to the influences of late 19th century German rationalism no doubt). We've already seen much of this sequel to the great shoot 'em up in previous issues of this illustrious publication. You presumably know for example that your dragon evolves as you play, its wings growing as it masters the miracle of



Plenty of huge, lovely dragons coming your way.



► **Flight.** You are also probably aware of the fact that *Panzer Dragon Zwei* is programmed to respond to a player's abilities, providing those more incapable of defending themselves with better armour, and those more proficient in their attacks with better weapons. A true mark of the all-encompassing spirit of this work I'm sure you'll agree. Whilst you haven't seen yet however is a detailed study of each of its stages, or 'Episodes' as they have been labelled, suggesting perhaps the finite reality of experience. Well, one of these games chappies is apparently going to take you through each episode, pointing out the interesting, the exhilarating, and those areas where the artist is still at labour. I would do it myself but I'm giving a lecture at Trinity college under the title 'Option screens: Palette of the Apprentice or the Expressionist's disguise?'. Anyway, must dash. Lotta's waiting for me in the sports.

DESCRIBE IN YOUR OWN WORDS

As the sound of an *MG* engine, shining champagne glasses and guffawing fade into the distance, it's left to me, the humble game's writer, to try and describe the surreal stages in *Panzer Dragon Zwei*:

EPISODE 1

This looks like a kind of post-apocalyptic wasteland, what with its brackered old fences and fading fires. This stage is still incomplete and as a result shorter than the other stages (except episode 5) at present. Nevertheless, expect to see a huge boulder rolling towards you at speed in much the same fashion as *Fallen* of the *Lost Ark*, the only difference being that this boulder is significantly bigger. Providing you make a quick getaway, hunched two-legged devils dotted about the place should begin to attract your attention. They won't attack, but get too close and they'll swing. Out at you, background items of interest include odd medieval windmills which look like some primitive energy saving device and crates which make satisfying explosions when you shoot them. At the end of the stage, you'll wonder past a HUGE monolithic figure which tries to stamp you out under one of its giant paws. And that's basically it for this, as yet, unfinished stage.

BOSS 1: Episode 1 is still awaiting its boss.

EPISODE 2

Episode 2 starts with your dragon nonchalantly trotting through what looks like a deserted canyon. Your radar will quickly tell you of something approaching from behind though. Turn around and the ground behind is rumbling! Suddenly, out burst three enemies that vaguely resemble giant scorpions. Colourful *Arakken* tents appear out of the distance. Destroy these and other dragon riders appear. They aren't buddies of yours so shoot them. Before you know it there are ships making low flying attacks, sweeping through

the valleys and over the mountain ridge. Like all of the stages, you reach a point where a choice of routes are offered. Go one way and you find yourself caught in air combat with whole squadrons full of what resemble huge floating galleon ships and smaller fighters, go the other way and you have to contend with a ground assault, ending in a huge cannon fortress that blocks your path.

BOSS 2: Looking like some kind of floating junk ship, the second boss hides lots of cannons within its shell which fire at you from a variety of angles. It also changes shape by sliding parts of its structure over one another. As you blast away it gradually loses some of its bulk, but watch out because falling debris often comes sailing towards you and your dragon. When you've got this boss on the defensive it starts to unload huge hexagonal canisters which flatten you unless you blow them up. A bit more concerted blasting and it's history!





EPISODE 3

From the desert scenes of Episode 2, we move to the lush greens of an idyllic forest, the sunlight creeping through the thick canopy to form pillars of light. It looks a bit like Centre Parcs, apart from the fact that even if the weather isn't going to spoil things, the multitude of enemies out for your death will. First among them are the small fighter planes again. Resembling small whales, they attack from the flanks firing missiles if you let them live too long. Floating vehicles carrying canoes also appear and fire immediately forcing you to either dodge the projectiles or destroy them. Depending on the route you choose, you'll have to face either giant catapillars that burrow under the ground then burst out weaving all about you, or floating ships that hover above you releasing three-pronged missiles.

BBS: This looks a bit like something out of *Alien*, what with its oblong head and the manner in which it crouches on its hind legs. It's very fast and agile jumping behind, in front and either side at cunning speed. It lashes out with its claws in attack, but the real threat comes from the small flattening enemies that it releases. Sometimes it will float above the trees, hiding in the canopy, but so long as you can target it, it's still vulnerable.

Bees as solids, there are still loads of equally huge sprites that go crashing through forests or swimming over the sky. In fact, every single sprite in *Pincer Dragon 2* is treated to the same loving care. The monster above is the real of level boss for Episode 3.



The boss at the end of Episode 3. As you move through the game the enemies become progressively more cunning in their attacks. Looking as fast as a snail in later stages, especially when the screen is smothered with foes, it's scary stuff! I tell ya.

EPISODE 4

As adept as your dragon may be at flying at great altitudes or great distances, his talents of manoeuvrability are most essential in Episode 4. This is because rather than facing the expansive earth beneath you or the daunting woods around you, you're trapped into a labyrinth of tunnels that seem to have more in common with sewage than anything else. There's a lot of water about and that's where most of the enemies

emerge from. Most of them look a bit like giant metallic hazelnuts, or else monkey nuts. Make no mistake though, these samurai nuts are very quick to attack, using mint green laser beams as weapons. At the end of each tunnel is a door which opens automatically sending you through on to a different path. There are also various metal barriers that you'll want to be dodging if your dragon is to keep its wings.

BOSS 4: Towards the end of Episode 4 you'll find yourself walking along a rampart surrounded by water. The boss appears on the scanner but there's no sign of it. That's because the cheeky blighter is crouching you under water. When it bursts out, its true immensity reveals itself. It's a huge mutant with elements of fish and a scorpion type tail. It lashes out with its tail and then ducks back into the water. Before you know it, the thing's behind you destroying the very rampart your dragon is running on. Eventually it's destroyed it all and you're forced to float above the water.



Standing in the burning sunset, our hero contemplates. He begins to compose a poem... 'Yell the magic dragon, feed by the sea'... Rmmm. Needs work.



Entering the spooky tunnel level, Episode 4. There is still some work to be done on surrounding various routes through this labyrinth.



EPISODE 5

Episode 5 is at present very brief. Of all the stages, this is the one requiring the most work, from the little there is of it though, it appears that some of it at least takes place in a snow storm. Like all the other stages, the enemies seem to be drawn out of the 1d, including what looks like a very fat butterfly and air-dancing crustaceans of sorts. Unfortunately, that's about all there is to know at present. Rest assured we'll update you when we see more.

BOSS 5: As with Episode 4, Episode 5 is still awaiting a boss.





This is the point in Episode 6 where the aim is to destroy the padlock on the side of the huge ship. Watch out though because enemies in the ship's hull start spinning missiles your way!



EPISODE 6

The snow in Episode 5 looks like it's settled as both you and your trusty dragon go soaring over an arctic landscape. The shimmering white scene is soon interrupted by what can only be described as pink sponges that come flying out of nowhere. In actual fact they are being fired from small aircraft in the shape of tri-pods. As you begin to descend, barriers spring up that you have to dodge fast. Before you know it you're in a tunnel dealing with foes that attack in symmetric fashion, surrounding you and firing pink laser beams. Coming out of the tunnel it turns out you have been in the belly of a huge airship. Emerging, you are confronted by these huge paddles. After spending some time blasting at these they collapse and break off. Heading back into a tunnel there are a few more

smaller enemies

to see off

before exiting

the tunnel altogether

only to find you

are now flying

under the airship's hull. Metal

structures

hang from the

hull and a flurry of

enemy fighters and

cannons put you in the

middle of heavy fire. Should you

get through the thick of it, a boss

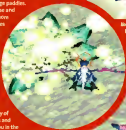
awaits at the hull's end.

BOSS 6: Hanked by two green

laser cannons on either side, boss 6 is

attached to the ship's hull. It's best to

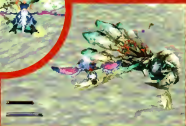
try and knock out these cannons first,



Below is the very elegant star-fish type boss that appears in Episode 7. This stage is still some way from completion although it looks like this strange entity will dominate the proceedings. As for Episode 8, that is as yet a bit of a mystery. We'll bring you shots as soon as we see it.

EPISODE 7 AND 8?

Rumours, rumours rumour! Episode 7 we know exists because of the grime-fil squid-like boss. The rumour is in fact that the whole of Ygg Dragoon is going to be dedicated to the boss. As for Episode 8, there is as yet nothing on it at all although work is being done on it as we speak. We'll bring you the update on these last two levels and the incomplete Episodes 3 and 5 in the next issue, along with more detail about the various routes through each of the stages.



ROUTING-TOOTING

Although Episodes 3 and 5 both offer the player a choice of routes, the other stages direct the player in a specific direction. All this is set to change, with each episode offering the player a choice of routes. Not only this, but points will be awarded according to the route you choose to take, and it will also affect the evolution of your dragon's defence and offensive capabilities. More on this next month.



The sequence at the top of this page shows highlights of the Yashiro's Reiter intro. The picture in the right is a rather broken portrait of Morrigan. Find out more about her special moves and Super Attacks elsewhere in this Showcase.

I walked Z0





with a movie



We're used to seeing **Death** stalking the Saturn Mag offices, usually in his **Warmed Up** incarnation reflected on the faces of the staff **each Monday morning**. But **Vampire Hunter** shows that death needn't be the end for gamers...

Throughout history our nightmares have been plagued by the terrors of the undead. European creatures such as Romanian vampires, Czech Golems and British Richard & Judy's Egyptian mummies. Africa's voodoo re-animated Zulu warriors. Vengeful Chinese ghosts. George Burns. But none (apart from George Burns) is as terrifying as the centrepiece of *Darkstalkers* – the scary Donavan. Apart from hanging around on street corners drumming a guitar and singing Jennifer Juniper the arch-fellic himself battles other undead in a bid to prove his supremacy over the realm of death. As the curly-haired flower child finishes his rendition of Scarborough Fair and needs some more LSD, other monsters over in the corner of the Mythos Cafe. Not because they're scared he'll thump them. They're just scared he'll start playing Scarborough Fair again.

Indeed, so deep has the rift twist Donovan and his pals and the other members of the post-respiratory community developed that tensions have flared and the normally passive ranks of demons, devils, succubi, spirits, ghouls, assorted neofascists and general misplacéd souls are at each others' throats. Most of which have rallied away. Something has to be done before the dead start killing each other.

Fortunately a method of policing discipline amongst the dissenting elements of the damned has presented itself. Why don't they all just have a fight about it, following specific duel rules and using no weapons other than their own supernatural abilities. Of course, this is the easiest way to decide whether or not Donovan should be allowed to release another novelty single with Trevor & Simon.

And the results of this tourney of the night is – thanks to the wonders of communist mechanising – now available to you, the punter, in the form of *Darkstalkers*.

Following the one-on-one beat 'em up formula so successfully initiated by Capcom.

Darkstalkers 2: Vampire Hunter takes the dead out of their graves and into the home (via your Saturn). Take control of your chosen undead and use their unique deathly abilities to beat your foe into submission over three rounds. All the usual array of punches, kicks, specials, Super Specials, multiple characters and so on are in place. But what separates *Vampire Hunter* from the crowd? Well read on and see, coffin-dodging dudes...



Darkstalkers is a bit of tough character to play, and he's crap in close combat, but he's loaded with big and impressive special moves, like this wind axe.





THE GALLERY OF THE NIGHT

GALLON (Werewolf)

Fast moving and agile fighter, whose lightning Charges across the screen and Kick-nique flash kicks are his main strengths. Most handy in a rack and recommended for beginners.



SASQUATCH (Yeti)

Short-armed furry chap with mastery over ice. Ice blasts, stalagmite attacks and throws are his forte. He's pretty slow, but once you've got the hang of his Specials he's a solid character.



LEI LEI (Chinese revenge ghost)

One of the best looked-up fighters in the game, Lei Lei is capable of a staggering array of attacks thanks to her transforming body. She's also got a funny neck, but don't reckon that unless you want a Swinging Chain Blade attack up your noggin.



DONOVAN (Elemental)

Not really a folk singer at all, we were lying. Although there is a folk singer called Donovan as well. But he's not this bloke. This bloke has command over fire and water and all that, looks very burnin' and is hard.



FELICIA (Cat spirit type thing)

No apparent links with the undead, but Felicia is a cat spirit thing with a Dragon Punch clone, excellent throwing capabilities and a general all-round goodness in her favour. But she's not a zombie, sadly.



DEMTRI (Vampire)

This is a bit more like it. Demtri is a proper undead, although he also has a Dragon Punch clone. And he throws fuuballs. In fact, he's not unlike Ken or Ryu. But he's a blood-sucking creature of the night, which makes him alright by us.



VICTOR (Animated composite)

Named perhaps after Victor Von Frankenstein, Victor is a walking human robot assembled from pieces of corpse. He's very big, strong but slow, excellent in close quarters with his big fists and also good at electrifying his body. But his nuts are in his neck. Ha ha.



ZANEL (Zombie)

A good old British zombie, with a Union Flag on his back and a guitar on his back. Can turn his hands in invisible Males Not a bad sort, but not too strong on cohesive characterisation. Pones with his guitar when he wins, the show off.



MORRIGAN (Devil)

Se-winged demon from Hell. Footballs a specialty, along with flying an opponent off the top of the screen before plodding them back into the ground. One of the best combinations on offer, but her moves take a bit of getting used to.



ANAKAPIS (Mummy)

Big slow and clumsy, that's Anakapis. And crap, that's him too. Has an amusing move which allows him to rise sargoplgi onto the heads of his opponent, and another where he mummifies them in bandages before cocking their feeble head on the floor. But generally not very good.



BISHAMON (Samurai spirit)

Obviously the Japanese will like this sort of ghost, but we'd rather have had a skeletal figure in a robe with a topknot. Anyway, if you liked Samurai Shodown, or enjoy playing as Silver Samurai in X-Men you'll like Bishamon.



AULBATH (Hell dragon)

A dragon. From Hell. He can use sonic attacks, big blazing flame Spet Specials and is very good at throwing in the air. No-one we know ever picks him though. Can't think why because he's pretty smart.



PHOBOS (Robot)

An undead-hunting robot designed by Rick Mariani, king Ghostbuster. As you'd expect from a robot, he's got loads of lasers and missiles. But you'd never catch anyone dressing up as him on Halloween.



PYRON (Fire demon)

Really hard to beat at first, but quite a cliché once you've got a hold of his techniques. Pyron is master of fire, a bit like the Donovan and Aulbath. But he's really the master of fire, because that's what he's made of. His scorching attacks and Plasma Rifle projectiles are his best features. And his nose.



What a handsome bunch. Some of these characters, like Sasquatch and Gellin, are actually heroic, but you'd never guess it to look at them.



The little girl standing in Donovan's left isn't a look-alike figure. She's actually his sister, so the girl whose dream spirit powers create him. Dream which.





PROJECTILE VOMITING

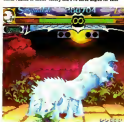
Fireballs, magic bolts and other projectile capabilities are right trouble-makers in the world of beat 'em ups. If you're one of the unlucky characters without ranged attacks, you're generally stuffed in any respects. Even if you do have them there's the possibility of passing an entire round just whanging fireballs at each other and watching them explode. But not with Darkstalkers, oh dearie me no. For Darkstalkers takes into account the strength of the loosed attacks, and allows certain strong fireball things to blast through an opponent's retaliatory strike, or even push the opposing long-range attempt back towards its caster! And as this isn't enough to upset the delicate balance of projectile power, other characters have defensive moves which allows them to repel such cowardly tactics. Hooray for innovation, say we.



If Banjo was a real vampire he'd just have turned into some mist and avoided that.



Before gets the first shot in here which is his Leaping Dog Fory move. Thanks to Better Theory there's three angles for this.



Scarsath can surround himself with big big spikes which freeze and harm all who touch them. He's quite tough.



THERE'S AN UNDEAD IN MY HOUSE!

Vampire Hunter tells us that the best way to defe at the evil undead is to whack them in the face with a blast of psychic energy. Well, sadly this sort of resource is not often available to a human being. So what should you do if you've got the undead in your house?

Well first off, don't panic. Confront to what Morgue of the Zombies might have you believe, you've very little chance of being harmed by the undead. Plus it's commonly thought, by psychics and that, that most undead feed off the energy of negative human emotions. So try wearing bright colours and singing happy songs.

If you're really scared by a member of the undead, write down what you've experienced and contact **The Society for Psychic Research, 49 Marlborough Rd, Kensington, London W8 6LA. If you're really scared you can phone them on 020 937 4946. Or try calling a vicar.**



Adolph, featured to the right, is a pretty good character even you get used to his name. But he's not one of the best, really.

Adolph's Super Flood move is active. But what's Adolph's up to?



Dickman's Soul Fist Destroyer spell not only looks gruesome, it's also highly powerful, as Felix notices here, opening blood.



With his flying powers, he's helped him out. The Super, and his Depression, could be it.



Oh, and Adolph is represented to primal form. All characters have different colored eyes.

SUPERGENIUS

Capecom are starting to get quite good at this Super Special's business these days. Darkstalkers also features the now ubiquitous Super bar underneath the regular fighting energy bar. As is now the drill, the more attacks and (in particular) special moves you pull off, the more energy goes into the little Super bar. Once this is filled you're granted one use of your Super Special. Acenesis moves. The Super bar is pretty stretchy, and will hold up to three special's' worth of Super energy at any one time, indicating a numerically how many it's currently awash with. The Super moves themselves walk the line between entertaining and devastating. Some of them, such as Demitri's Rise Dragon, a blazing behemoth which sweeps the screen, is purely for damage inflicting purposes. Others, such as Zabal's ridiculous turn-your-opponent-into-a-fish-shaped-basketball-hoop-and-post-them-head-through-it effort, are played as much for yucks as yucks.



This might look like some kind of Satanic rite like you've heard about on the news, but it's actually one of Pyron's Super moves. It's a good look!



Phokas is a robot, or technologically speaking he is indeed.



What do you call a wet spirit with a light on her head?



It'd be great being a vampire. If only they were real and I was one. Sigh.



A Felien Reared! So he had! But you don't get that do you? Haha.



This is one of Banpresto's Super's. First he try break the ground...



...Then the opponent slips around for a bit before crawling through the ice...



...Finally a whale smacks them out of the water for lots of damage. Burray for the Wolf!



In scenarios where dumping from the confines of this console/Capecom calls this Super.



A potentially flexible and almost frog-like/basketball-hoop-looking Super from Zabal.



One of the more conventional Super attacks featured in Vampire's Horror. If you can call summoning a blazing fire dragon to roar across the screen conventional in your part of the world.

wipeout™

SECRETS PART 1

As a racing game, *Wipeout* is very different from your *Daytonas* and *Rallies*. For a start, it's not played on the ground, and the breakneck speeds which can be achieved require some very careful handling. There's loads of hidden power ups to activate on each course too, which is why we've put together this two-part guide – most of which has come straight from the programmers! **SAM WICKMAN** is here to guide you through the first three courses.

Right. So you've rushed on down to the shops to get one of the very first copies of *Wipeout*, run all the way home, bunged it into the machine, and started playing the game. But hey! You're not very good, are you? You're wobbling about all over the place like an old granny, aren't you? Well, that's because *Wipeout* isn't like an ordinary racing game – it needs precision handling, and you'll have to practice a lot before you start placing in the top three.

TEAMS

Each craft in *Wipeout* has very different abilities. However the **FESAR** craft is probably the most popular choice, as although it can't reach breakneck speeds, the weight of the craft means that you tend to bounce off the side if the track rather than spin out of control. But to get the most out of this team, you'll need to utilise all the speed-up icons on the track.

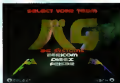
AG systems are also a good choice for the beginner, as although they have a higher top speed than **FESAR**, the turning ability is superior, and it's possible to qualify for all six tracks with this craft.

AURICOM AND **QIREX** teams require more careful handling, as both of these crafts are considerably heavier and are difficult to handle. But, they can reach greater speeds if handled properly, although they can be frustrating at first.

Generally though, the lighter crafts seem to fare better at the end of the day simply as the feel is superior.

AIR BRAKES

Unlike other racing games where it's possible to almost ignore the existence of the brake, success in *Wipeout* heavily depends on the use of the airbrakes. Proper use ensures that corners are swung around, rather than crashed into. To use the airbrakes properly, all you have to do is tap them – you don't need to hold the buttons down for very long. They're more useful for making tiny adjustments so you can keep to the racing line while also obtaining all the power ups dotted around the course.

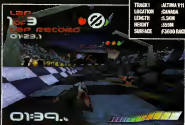


COURSE 1: ALTIMA V11

As this is the first track in the game it's not overly difficult, and was designed mainly as a training course for the rest of the tracks. Getting a turbo start on any of the corners is obviously a good idea, but the first part of this track is fairly easy - a hill climb with plenty of power ups along the way. It's probably a better idea to go for the speed up grids more than anything else, as provided you keep a good placing, you're unlikely to find weapons a necessity in this level. As soon as you reach the drop, steer your craft over to the right to pick up the speed boost on the right hand side of the hill. There's two more speed ups just before a small ramp jump after the track becomes flat again. The second one is on the right hand side just before a small hill, which obscures a weapon on the left hand side. If you're careful, you can hit the speed up, then steer left to get the weapon as well - but, go for speed ups if it's a choice between the two.

After this section is another hill, and again, there's plenty of speed ups on the left hand side, although you'll probably get a better racing line on the right hand side. After this section, the track goes pretty flat enabling you to pick up most of the goods on offer. However, you'll soon find yourself in a tunnel inside a mountain. There's two sets of speed ups to be found here, one on each side, plus a final one on the left hand side at the end of the tunnel. As soon as you've hit this one, apply the left hand side air brake and powerslide over to a final speed up on the right hand exit of the tunnel. This will give you the added boost to reach the finishing line in a good time.

TRACK	ALTIMA V11
LOCATION	CANADA
LENGTH	0.500M
HEIGHT	100M
SURFACE	F3000 RACING STANDARD



COURSE 2: KARBONIS

Tighter turning is required on this slightly more complex course with plenty of hill climbs and more jump sections than the first track. There's more opportunity for need to use the air brakes too, and as such, this race holds some very important lessons for later tracks.

At the beginning of the track there's a speed up on the left hand side. It's probably better to avoid this as it is situated very close to the wall. If you don't bother going for the speed up then you'll have more chance of cutting in on your opponent as you speed around the corner. There's two more speed up grids just ahead on the right hand side and if you manage to hit them, you'll be placed in the best position to enter the tunnel. Once in the tunnel, position yourself for a right hand exit, then just before the exit position your nose in the far left corner and push forward on the joystick. This will position you correctly for the drop - otherwise you'll probably crash into the right hand side of the wall. If you follow this procedure, you'll hit another speed up.

After the small dip in the track, there's two speed ups on the right hand side of the track as it veers off towards the left. To hit these you'll need to use the air brake. If you aim straight for them you'll either rebound or crash. Following this section is a couple of jumps, both of which contain weapon power ups. There's another small jump after this, the best way to take it is to follow the racing line of the speed ups and the weapon runs. This path does mean that you'll be weaving from side to side, but you won't crash into any of the walls, meaning that overall, you'll get a faster time.



TRACK	KARBONIS
LOCATION	JAPAN
LENGTH	0.400M
HEIGHT	100M
SURFACE	DISCLAIMED TITANIUM

TRACK 3: TERRAMAX

Again, this track is more complex than the previous two, combining hilly sections with treacherous straights. There's water on this track too, although its presence shouldn't affect your driving. This is the list of the "beginner" tracks and mastering the race is essential for competence in the next three tracks.

The first speed ups on this course can be found as you begin to ascend the hill. The first is on the right, and the second is on the left. There's also a weapon kiosk at the bottom of this hill, which you should try and pick up, as there should be a computer opponent in front at this point. Just after the start of the hill climb two speed icons appear at the top of the hill, which are initially hidden from view. To pick these items up you'll need to move across to the left hand side, after picking up the weapon [the first small climb section]. As you descend from this bit, aim for the left for the first pick up, and right for the second. There's another speed up on the left hand side just before the entrance to the tunnel section. Once inside the tunnel, there's a double speed up on the left hand side, as the bend curves to the right. To pick this up, change your racing line after the double speed up otherwise you'll crash into the wall. You'll also fly past a weapon grab which will be impossible to pick up unless you want to jeopardise your speed.

There's two speed ups side by side as you exit the tunnel. Hit these in the middle as you don't slide off into the side of the bridge. After this is a double side by side weapon grab just before the jump. Again, try to hit these in the middle. Avoid the next speed up grab as you'll probably bounce off the side of the track unless you're very experienced with the air brakes.

After the jump there's a speed up on the right hand side, so position yourself accordingly when coming off the jump. A triple speed up awaits ahead on the right, and in the speed boost dies down there's another weapon grab on the left. Both of these can be found just before the entrance to the canyon section. There's a fair few pick ups in the climb of this section and more on the way down, so it's best to keep your craft quite low - there's plenty of computer players around too, so make sure you drop a few mines. There's another small jump section after this and as soon as you hit the top, you'll see the finish line, although you may want to shoot a few missiles at this point to slow opponents down as they race for the finish.

NEXT MONTH Our guide to the three remaining tracks plus tips for the bonus event track

TRACKS	: TERRAMAX
LOCATION	: GERMANY
LENGTH	: 4.3KM
WEIGHT	: 12Tm
SURFACE	: DUSTY RACING STANDARD



Some extremely careful handling is required if you want to place anywhere in the race.



Otherwise you'll end up in last place, as is displayed here.



WIN!!!!

EXCLUSIVE WIPEOUT MERCHANDISE AND A COPY OF WIPEOUT!

For the launch of Wipeout on the Saturn, clothing company Million Dollar clothing have collaborated with Psygnosis for a whole new range of Wipeout clothing. Although these garments will be sold in the shops, they will only be available in selected outlets, but luckily, we have loads of gear to give away to SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE readers. Plus, there's a chance to win one of the very first copies of Wipeout in the world!

FIRST PRIZE (x5)

ONE WIPEOUT T-SHIRT AND
A COPY OF WIPEOUT!

SECOND PRIZE (x5)

A WIPEOUT T-SHIRT!

THIRD PRIZE (x5)

A WIPEOUT RECORD BAG!

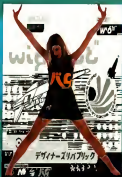
FOURTH PRIZE (x5)

A BOBBLE HAT!

To enter the competition, simply
answer this question:

**Q: Which famous design agency were drafted in to create the images
for Psygnosis' Wipeout?**

Just put your answers on a postcard and send your entry in to: Even games can be cool
sometimes. SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, EMAP IMAGES, 30-32 FAIRFAX LANE, LONDON
EC1R 3AU by April 20th. Normal Compco rules apply.



Incidentally, if you need any further information about the Wipeout range of clothing, call Million Dollar on (01753 76488) for your nearest stockist.

Also available at: Million Dollar Sports, 369 Kings Road, Chelsea, London SW3 5ER.

TEKKEN 2 ON THE PLAYSTATION!!

THE COMPLETE PLAYER'S GUIDE IN ISSUE 5! SPECIAL NAMCO EDITION ON SALE MARCH 29TH!

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TEKKEN 2

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SEGA SATURN

Review Index

Howdy lads - you look like just the sort of person who likes knowing whether Saturn games are any good or not. Well allow us to let you into a little secret. This magazine you're reading - SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE - happens to like that too, and as such they fill their mag with these things called Reviews. They're meant to explain clearly how good or bad Saturn games are. And this very page tells you all the games that are reviewed in this issue, and what pages they're on. Simply turn to the relevant numerically-labelled sheet and read. Couldn't be simpler. Just don't tell anyone I told you.

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TYPE	PLATFORM
PRICE	EXTRA
STYLE	RACING
RELEASE	MAY

What everyone wants to hear is that Wipeout is better on Saturn than it is on PlayStation. However, it's more relevant to judge Wipeout on its merits as a game in its own right, instead of being compared to a version on a rival format. Wipeout should be benchmarked alongside Sega Rally. So let's pretend Wipeout is a brand new piece of software which has never been seen before.

It's a racing game set in the future, where cars have been replaced by nippy floating pointy vehicles, and normal flat (ish) tracks super-sliced by tortuous, mountain-twisting roads littered with power-ups. Steering roles as much on air brakes as ladder control. This is pretty obvious right from the offset of the first track, which contains some harsh uphill corners. The effect of braking is not unlike a powerslide in a car racing game, but twists your vehicle at an acute angle very quickly (as you expect with a floating thing).

Wipeout is absolutely smart. There's no getting away from it. It's dead fast and cool and everything. You'll love it. Almost you will. It's good.

There's no faulting the track design, as each course has its own personality and unique hazards. This is the kind of game where everyone has a least favourite arch-nemesis track. And

It's the moment you've all been waiting for. Except two months ago it had never occurred to you to wait. The surprise Saturn release of the Spring, but could it be that it's surprisingly bad? Surely not? Well read on, kids...

there are certainly plenty of them to choose from. However, compared with Sega Rally Wipeout's graphics are slightly on the grainy side and the update is maybe not so swift as it could have been. That's not to say it's slow and jerky and has massive clipping troubles, because none of these statements are applicable. But the Saturn is capable of better and this we have seen. It's not a major gameplay fault, because Wipeout is still a fast and addictive racer with a refreshing slant to the action, but it does hint at programming laziness in the final stages of production.

The only real complaint we can level at the actual game mechanics is the handling of the skimmers, which sometimes seems a little heavy considering these vehicles are supposed to be floating above the ground. However, having never driven a real floating racing car perhaps that's just being pedantic.

In its favour, Wipeout exhibits all the hallmarks of a classic. It's easy to get into, although the later tracks require quite some expertise just to complete, never mind triumph over. The controls give you a fair amount of skill potential to grow into without being overly fussy. Heck, even the music isn't so bad if you're into all that techno business. So me there's no split-screen two-player mode, really, because it's a perfect title for such carryings on.

All in all Wipeout is a fine figure of a game, worthy of a place in your software collection, sporting some excellent visuals and a lengthy challenge. It'll take some beating before you even graduate to the higher skill level Paper Class tournament. So stick that in your pipe and smoke it.

And is it as good as the PlayStation version? Not quite. The transparency effects are inappreciably less impressive and the music isn't quite so hot, but the gameplay has survived in perfect condition.

R A D



There's a first-person perspective and everything. In fact, the game is best played in this mode as it adds to its cool-looking 'transmission of the action. And action there is, in plentiful supply. You wouldn't believe what a polygon car is, and so is it.



wipeOut



There's a big jump just after the next corner which is absolutely **ROCK** to get right!



A severe corner is ahead.



Prepare to lose your lunch with a huge number of long drops, the going over a humpback bridge to your dad's car.

The picture below shows the effects of a missile upon one of the opposing floaty vehicles. In fact it is completely incinerated.



Fast and absorbing, Wipeout lacks the pseudo-realism of Rally but delivers heavily in general fun stakes. Definitely worth checking out.



graphics	91
sound	88
playability	92
testability	91
overall	
92%	

Look at that picture to the right. It's nice. And you should it being, it's nice.



BY	MAGIC CARPET
PATCH	EGA 99
STYLE	SHOOT 'EM UP
RELEASE	APRIL

Despite being the **most popular console in the UK** a couple of years back, the **Megadrive** certainly missed out on a good few top quality titles. It just **didn't have the power** to handle them you see. But the **Saturn**, that's a completely different bundle of bits. **It can handle anything.** Which is why all these **PC hits of yesteryear** keep appearing on it you see.

But that's not necessarily a bad thing, especially when some of the titles being converted are among the best PC titles around. In fact, at its time of release *Magic Carpet* was not only the best game around, it was the most original too. And instead of plumping for the obvious lets just get the conversion out of the way option, Bulifrog have taken the game back to the drawing board and made essential changes to the title.

For example, in the Saturn version of the game, there's 75 levels as opposed to the 50 found in the PC version. There's also a more friendly spell-casting system and even a new spell to mess around with too.

But, in a way that's all by the by if you haven't already played the PC version, why should you care about a few extra levels? Nope, us console kids just expect the world on a plate NOW. So it's just as well Bulifrog decided to include everything they possibly could.

Anyway, as a conversion, *Magic Carpet* is actually very good. As a game in its own right, it's right as brilliant. The basic aim is to whizz about on your magic carpet, building castles and killing enemies in order to restore the world's power equilibrium. But of course, when you're playing the game, it doesn't feel as though you're part of a moral army or anything. Nope, you just want all the power for yourself and all the other wizards in the game deserve to die.

To gain more power and expand a castle, balls of mana must be collected. These are distributed whenever enemies (usually in the form of huge slugs, dragons, bees or trolls) are destroyed. Mana can also be stolen from other

wizards (hang around while they're busy blasting enemies) and is spirited back to your own castle. This is done via the balloon which comes free of charge with every new abode. Of its own accord it will fly about collecting the mana and depositing it into your castle. Once enough is collected, you'll be able to expand your empire and ultimately take over the world.

In all, there's 75 worlds to conquer and, after the first few levels have been completed, the action becomes quite difficult, with enemy wizards stealing your mana at every possible opportunity. However,

there's plenty of spells to discover which counteract the difficult nature of the game, and if you're in any way partial to a bit of strategic type blasting, there's no doubt that *Magic Carpet* will suit you down to the ground. And if it looks as anything to go by, it's certainly up there with the best Saturn releases of the day. I'm still a bit dubious about those very convenient 'mist' effects which do a fine job in disguising the poor screen update, but for the most part, the graphics are really impressive, featuring huge sand dunes, detailed border towns and plenty of varied landscapes. Music-wise, it's pretty sparse, but it seems as though this is the way the *Music* guys wanted it - a Middle-style snake charmer music suits the action down to the ground.

In fact, in every department, *Magic Carpet* is a quality and engaging release. The only disappointing feature is that there's no link up option or two player game - which was one of the best features in the PC version. However, the fact that this has been replicated on the Saturn in most of its original glory is reason enough to buy the title, although it should be pointed out that instant gratification fans may find it a bit tedious to begin with. But don't worry about that - it soon grows on you.

Of course, *Magic Carpet* remains an original concept on the Saturn, and although there are games such as *Firestorm* that you can roughly compare it to, there's no doubting that this is something of an essential purchase for all techno-hungry Saturn owners. A top quality title, indeed.

SAM HICKMAN



Quick! Get that ball of mana now, otherwise that thief is going to pillar up! And watch out for the order on horseback too, otherwise you'll end up getting hit!



This guy appears from the sky just to breathe lightning upon you. Nice.



An enemy wizard prepares to attack your balloon. See him off with Engage.

Magic Carpet

REVIEW 



SWINGS AND ROUNDABOUTS...

There's much menu accessing to be conquered in *Magic Carpet*, and it has to be said that, when first playing the game, it can become a bit tedious. In fact, to even lay down a castle (which is the first thing you'll have to do in the game) you'll need to pick up a spell, access your menu, highlight the castle, exit the menu, find a suitable verse, then shoot the spell to make the castle appear. Oh, and don't forget to access the menu again, change it to a different weapon, exit the menu, then fly in your merry way to more ruins.



Your castle is under attack! Find the culprit immediately, or he might blast it to the ground!



Worms are fairly easy to destroy, but they're also very irritating.

An original concept that will suit most homeplayers, with a high challenge and some of the best flight-graphics yet seen on the system.

Graphics 89

Sound 82

Playability 90

Value 90

overall

90%

DEVELOPER	CAPCOM
PRICE	£44.99
STYLE	FIGHTING
RELEASE	APRIL

Streetfighter 2 is the Richard and Judy of the videogames world. It's hard to believe it's been around on the scene for so long, and still retains such fervent popularity with the same audience, whilst still picking up new fans along the way. Indeed, it's over five years since the launch of the original Streetfighter solo-op, and since then we've seen approximately ten hundred billion different updates and conversions of the game sprawling themselves across arcades and home machines the world over. Since Streetfighter 1 was first launched the Ayatollah Khawari has died, the Criminal Justice Act has been passed into law and

Tatfintinos has started showing three times a week. Indeed, the only certain certainty of the last half-decade has been that Capcom would never get round to releasing a possibly enlightening Streetfighter 3. But, perhaps realising their rather slack attitude concerning a new Streetfighter happening, Capcom have finally presented fans with a much-requested follow-up. Although strictly speaking it's a leap back into the mists of time, set just before the events of the popular sequel to the unpopular and completely forgotten prequel. It's called Streetfighter Alpha and it features characters from both previous SF games, along with participants culled from old Capcom fighting games such as Real Fight, and

a sprinkling of all-new cheap soapy posthumers to sustain the audience-drying longevity of the series.

But it's not just the new cast that makes Alpha a departure from the classic SF format. This game has a totally new graphical style, with far more anime-esque characters and far smoother animation. Indeed, the animation warrants a special mention as it's far more realistically three-dimensional than old Streetfighter. Gone is the walking-on-sloppy-rice-effect of yesterday; these new fighters walk, fight and fall with a believable depth (for a 2D game).

This spirit of newness extends far beyond the reach of more mental graphics, too. The game speed has been upped. Firing quicker thoughts and reactions. There's a bunch of new gameplay options, including a

Wearing their primitive primate tendencies on their sleeves, the Alpha males (and females) of the World Warriors crew are making a welcome return to the home gaming scene. Are they still top banana?



smart 'Training Mode' which allows you to practice new combos and tactics against an inactive dummy opponent. And each of the cooling SF mythos folks have been redesigned, with new moves added and familiar ones subtracted.

If you're a bit worried that all this sounds rather far removed from the familiar SF concept you know and love, fret not. All the legend-establishing characteristics are in place, but they've been nicely augmented for the modern gaming climate. The action quotient is up, and there are far more impressive special features and visual effects to keep the eyes occupied.

As a game, there's not much you can fault Alpha on. The graphics are great, the sound's great. It plays very well. Indeed, it's tough enough to keep you going for ages even without a second player to hand. However, Capcom have done themselves the disservice of putting this pretty much head-to-head with X-Men, which is (albeit only slightly) the better game. Thanks to its wealth of extra new features, such as the Vector Theory projectiles and Create a Combo rule.

Fans of Alpha have basically got the moveset a pretty much arcade-perfect conversion, and we'd their eagerly recommend getting hold of a copy. Rainwater fight fans, however, who are merely shopping for the best 2D face-puncher on Saturn, would probably be better off with Children of the Atom.

RAD



STREET FIGHTER ALPHA



That Sodom picture he's hard, but he looks like a real girl to me with that peachy face.



Fighting is wrong. Why must men fight, daddy? Why can't we all just love each other and be friends?



Isn't it funny how Chun (I) could throw fireballs in this prequel, and then forgets how to do it in Street Fighter II, and only remembers the technique a couple of games later in Street Fighter Turbo? Anyway, here she is teaching Sodom a thing or two.



Eyo lets us in to a rare moment of Eireball development intimacy. Only in the pages of Ball!



One of the many gorgeous super moves is full swing. Sodom's in for a beating.



Absolutely ace, one of the best beat 'em ups written in the history of the world ever. A certainty for pride of place in your beating legacy. Unless you've got X-Men already.

graphics	93	overall 93%
sound	92	
playability	93	
durability	95	

BY	CORE DESIGN
PRICE	\$70
STYLE	SHORT-EM-UP
RELEASE	APRIL

Derby is in fact the home of Core Design, masters of the Mega-CD, authors of the Sega Saturn. They already have a couple of Saturn titles to their name - *Thunderhawk* and *Virtual Golf*. And actually, they don't talk like gangsta rappers at all really. In fact, they're all very well spoken, thankful very much and they all clean behind their ears every single day too. So there you go.

But even though they're all quite posh, they do know about everyday life on the street. They really do. And it's all because they've created *Shellshock*, a tank game with attitude and plenty of streettalk. Based in an age where law has broken down, vigilante groups take to the streets to curb evil groups in tanks hell bent on destroying just about everything. The atmosphere is very LA, replete with seamy gores and plenty of bleak, bland landscapes.

Of course you play the rookie with everything to prove in this adventure, and take pole position in the tank. Blowing every enemy that dares to stray into your path. The area which the game is played in is actually quite enormous and the player is able to crush and crunch their way through the levels in any way they like (aside the water otherwise you'll drown). With an on screen radar alerting you of tanks in the area. As you'd imagine this is initially a brilliant laugh especially as your tank is able to reach quite a respectable speed, feeling more like a hovercraft than a cumbersome heavy thing.

However, it's after only a short time that it all becomes rather dull. And contrary to the designers hopes, all the home launcher and movie cut interludes don't make for a tense atmosphere at all. In fact, they have a tendency to become rather irritating - the

Yo dude. Word is, **your ass is going down**. And don't expect your homies to stick by you. Nope, they outta here. Hoo-ee are **you in a whole lotta trouble**. I'm telling you, in Derby, we ain't up for no Queens english. We talk like **we from the Bronx**. And if you ain't into that jive, **we pump some rounds in you with our AKs**. Word up.

characters' mouth movements don't match up to the dialogue at all and the accessing time between conversation responses is quite painful - you can actually hear the CD whining away while it's attempting to access the next part of the conversation. Plus, the voices and dialogues chosen are a bit weak - interludes about the origins of *Blade Runner* read out by Trevor McCormick doing home. But in a way that's all by the by - just a mere extra to the stinking game play yes? Er maybe.

As *Shellshock* was developed by the same company who brought the amazing first person to our systems, it's only natural that we expected something a bit special in *Shellshock*. However, the finished goods are a bit on the average side. While the landscapes are very much urban, there's not much detail on them, and the music used on each level doesn't instill much of an atmosphere to the proceedings. Plus, although there's plenty of tanks to unleash your mighty power upon, it feels like there's not much to do in each level - as if there should be something more to complete. Also your navigator only seems to relay information when you're hit by something, making the game's atmosphere seem rather flat.

But, at least this is an attempt to bring a next generation blast, even up to the Saturn. And if you're not too bothered about the exact movements of a tank or replicating authentic sounds of shellfire and warfare, then *Shellshock* could prove to be a worthy title. However, it's not in depth enough for universal appeal, and could have done with a much more chaotic atmosphere with less emphasis placed on attempting to be cool - an element which has given the game a rather cheesy aroma.

SAM HICKMAN



This is your mission briefing, although it's not half as complicated as it looks - just about everything you see.



Once you strag into the crossfire of an enemy tank, it's very difficult to get out of the way - the best thing to do is reverse, while shooting for all you're worth!



In the later levels you'll also get to have a go at helicopters - although they're much more difficult to destroy.



As soon as you see a tank, blast it...



...Before it blasts you! Sounds easy but it isn't.

SHELLSHOCK

KEEPIN' DA
FACE



Def! We've been hit! Let's get the tank outta here while we still have our hand!



A good blaster which lacks any real depth, resulting in limited replayability.

graphics 78

sound 79

playability 71

replayability 70

overall

70%

BY	VERGEN
PRICE	£30A
STYLE	SPORTS SIM
RELEASE	TBA

Golf is experiencing a bit of a **Renaissance on the Saturn** at the moment. **Valora Valley Golf** arrives determined to **shake the whole genre up a bit**, but bearing some remarkable similarities to one predecessor in particular. **Is it a success?** Or are we looking at a bit of a recycling trick?

Golf fans have been arriving quite frequently to the Saturn of late. We've had Pebble Beach Golf, World Cup Golf, Virtual Golf and now, bringing the whole arcade full circle is Valora Valley Golf, a game that uses the same basic engine as

Pebble Beach. Don't let that put you off too much though, because, rather surprisingly, Valora Valley Golf is quite good fun. Admittedly some of this might be in its unintentional cheesiness, what with golf balls that turn into tomatoes and courses that see you negotiating lakes of lava. But these idiosyncrasies aside, this is golf in its traditional guise and it works quite well, using all of the same techniques as Pebble Beach Golf (including strange icon style and so on, yet avoiding some of the more glaring flaws in its predecessor's gameplay).

The main event so to speak is the Devil's Open which is an 18 hole plaything into some very challenging and bizarre courses that see you working your way to a green sitting on the plateau of a mountain or a green based on an island, or negotiating tall legs and nasty sand traps, or trying to weave between huge concrete pillars. Valora Valley Golf runs the risk of being a little too eccentric, but it manages to avoid becoming frustratingly difficult by balancing the bizarre with the standard course characteristics like the fairway, the rough, and the traditional green (of a little more bumpy at times).

As for the controls, they're quite simple, using the standard Sega Saturn controls. The swing is controlled by the D-pad, the club by the buttons. The game also features a variety of power-ups, including a 'Power Up' that gives you a temporary boost in power, and a 'Power Down' that gives you a temporary boost in accuracy. The game also features a variety of power-ups, including a 'Power Up' that gives you a temporary boost in power, and a 'Power Down' that gives you a temporary boost in accuracy.



A screen in the middle of the course, where you can see your first drive will have to be very precise. If you want to play with a little or so, you're going to have to be on the green in two shots.

As has been mentioned, the control method in Valora Valley is basically identical to Pebble Beach Golf. This means that you'll need to make the usual adjustments for direction, choosing clubs and preparing your stance. When you reach the green a grid appears to convey the contours and there's the familiar little info box telling you the distance and slope. What's different is the power bar and it's something that seems a bit confusing at first. Rather than display the yardage of a full power stroke, all it has are four mysterious tags: fire, cyclone, warp and psycho. As you soon discover, these come into play when you hit the power bar just right. Hit one of these as the return and you'll pull off a special shot. The lack of ability to gauge how far your shot is likely to go seems frustrating at first, but you quickly get used to simply using your eye to judge exactly how much power is needed.

One of the disappointments of Valora Valley Golf is that there are no other courses to choose from. Whether you're in the Open, in Skills Play or Tournament Play, it's the same 18 holes. There is, however, a choice of four golfers — two male, two female — whose different attire and hairstyles are poor substitutes for the fact that they all play the same. Even more pointless is choosing your caddy although it is quite amusing when they pop up sport ing a cheesy grin to offer you a compliment like "nice par" or "great drive".

Valora Valley Golf doesn't quite match the more playable Virtual Golf, but because its courses are more unusual and thus more challenging it gets the better of the other golf games currently available on the Saturn, including its earlier incarnation, Pebble Beach Golf. Not a classic by any means, but golfing fans with an eye for something different, or even golfing fans with a taste for the Saturnic will be sitting at the right hole tables.

ROB BRIGHT



As the flames get higher in the distance, are your costumes, photos, and whether to use a few pins.



More is the very much and early hole 6. If you're a devoted you'll risk going for the short cut through them.



Note 4 sports one of the toughest greens you've ever likely to see. You're going to have to make some inspired judgements here I can tell you.

Valora Valley GOLF

POWER OF THE DEVIL!

Warp? Psycho? Cyclone? Fire? What does all that mean then? It is in fact the Devil's own supernatural talents coming into play if you hit the power button just right, then one of these super shots makes itself available. With fire, the ball spontaneously combusts and dives through anything in its path. With cyclone,

the ball does much the same thing except it travels along the ground. Psycho sees the ball throbbing, although what exact difference this makes is a bit of a mystery. Probably the best of the special shots is warp which causes your ball to disappear only to reappear live on the green. Getting the knack of using these specials takes a bit of time, but when you do it offers you tremendous advantages.



Once you're on the green a map with the gradient and distance automatically appears. You're going downhill here so it's best to be a gentle putt. The grid shows any traps that you would otherwise be ignorant of.



One thing that golfers are never short on is an ability to find the most tedious items of clothing in the entire galaxy. Cooper here plays it conservative with his fresh slacks.



This hole is flanked by lakes on either side making a straight drive essential. If you end up in the water you drop a shot.



Not the best of the golf sims available on the Saturn but an amusing game, helped by a slice of originality.

graphics	78	overall 74%
sound	75	
playability	73	
lastability	72	

BY	SEGA
PRICE	£79.95
STYLE	RPG
RELEASE	APRIL

As soon as the Saturn came out, magazines such as *Play* were swamped with letters asking after the prospects of futuristic Megadrive brands hitting 32-bit. *Sonic*, *Streets of Rage* and *Shining Force* being the main three points of interest. Well it was only a matter of time before at least one of them managed to make the transition, and this is the end result. Not just another *Shining Force* game, this is a re-vamp of the *Shining Formula*.

Set years after the events of the previous *Shining* games (like anyone really cares about the time frame) you play the son of a great (and dead) knight, ready for his first day at the office. After nobly declaring your aged grandfather upon his own bizarre wishes it's time to guide the wannabe warrior to the king's castle, evading or attacking the roaming beatles along the path. It's in the process of dealing said roaming beaters that the player notices the first advancement along the *Shining* path. The combat system, long consulting-war game style battles of previous *Shines* has been replaced by a more arcade friendly parry and slash going on. Immediately this increases the pace of gameplay about a hundred fold. Which means there's more game time to concentrate on that all-important centrepiece of any decent RPG: the plot.

Obviously this could be a bad thing. After all, if you couldn't give a stuff what happens to *Sonic* and his lives you're unlikely to even wade through the reams of text. Let alone tackle the puzzles in a game. But *Shining Wisdom* excels here on two levels. For starters, the plot is fast moving and intriguing enough to sustain your interest, and secondly because there's such a huge degree of interactivity. Most player characters do waffle on a fair bit as you'd expect, but in *Shining Wisdom* you're given the chance to reply (in affirmative or negative terms) to all their questions. This means you've got more scope to change the direction of the plot than by whether or not you win a battle or find an object. Basically this has transformed

The famous Megadrive series makes it to Saturn. But is the *Shining* concept getting a bit long in the tooth (ha ha, tooth, wisdom, you see?)? Or could this be the first popular Megadrive range to make a sensation on Saturn?



the more strategy-based *Shining* engine into a more in depth role playing animal.

Kinding *Shining Force* fans shouldn't be disappointed - after all the series began life as a first person perspective dungeon exploration game called *Shining in the Darkness*, which was crap. And it was the first game I ever reviewed in my life, so I know. What *Wisdom* represents is the kind of step forward required to take *Shining* games into 32-bit.

Obviously if you're a die hard anti-RPG campaigner *Shining Wisdom* has little chance of converting you. It hasn't got the amazing graphics of *D&D* or the game centric ruminations of *Snatcher* to tempt the more vicarious thrill seekers over. But it's nowhere near as tedious as you'd believe. The plot evolves rapidly, there's a lot of running around and fighting monsters and very little waiting around. Even reading important clues and bits of plot is made more fun by being able to speak to the other characters (a bit).

Hopefully this is the first of many *Shining* games to let the Saturn in the future, as it's ace. Though perhaps Sega could attract a wider audience by bringing out titles based on the same engine but without the almost passive rewards in scenery-faring about that puts a lot of players off.

8.0



That red-headed chap is you. This game would be better if you didn't play a gipsy.



Even the villains in *Shining Wisdom* look sweet. Like this little headbanger.





Despite the overall entry value, some moments in Shining Wisdom are a bit odd, like these gawking jaws of Lucius:



Remember kids, a true hero is always up for giving help to his
but here is sets of safety gear, but this that's why
they're kids who are eaten by monsters for nothing.



Oh my God! Shining Wisdom features an over-the-top
scene where to break out hard-working members of the Saturn Mag
team all too need to this video.



graphics	72	overall 88%
sound	78	
playability	91	
testability	93	

CHECKPOINT 2

PREVIOUS LEADERS WIPED OUT COMPLETELY BY NEW HYPER RACERS!

If he beat it well, Poor old Leonidas. Troncock, last month's leader, went by a bit spent this month, because he's not a winner. The Top Ten, in fact, his old time of 3.04.98 looks rather poorly in comparison to some of the new Hyper mode challengers, some of which have knocked an incredible ten seconds off the previous record, only ten! This results from the previous chart, whereby enough in exactly the same position after adding his time back quite severely, but we know you can all do better than that. There's still a couple of months left for you to get your names in, so get to those jayspads and get cracking!

TIME ATTACK RULES

Since the last issue there seems to have been a bit of confusion over the rules for the Time Attack. So we're going to explain them again just to clarify the situation. We're after one time, which is comprised of your times for ONE LAP of each of the first three Rally courses. You MUST play the game in Championship mode, NOT TIME ATTACK, NOT TIME ATTACK - get it? Now yes, however, play using one or three laps, taking your best SINGLE LAP TIME for each course if in three-lap mode. DON'T RESORT. The times you send us have to come from our favourite game, and just the best three lap times you could get over the course of about fifty goes.

But we're not totally heartless. We will allow you to use the HYPER MODE and STRAUS if you think you're up to it. And while we're about it, when you're adding up your times, remember that there are only sixty seconds in a minute, so no more of this 3.10.40 that we've been having, which you may think is a good time, but is in fact crap, standing as it does at a more chronologically correct 3.10.40.

Right, now you've got your best three lap times for the first three courses IN CHAMPIONSHIP MODE WITHOUT RESORTING, add them up, pop them on the back of a postcard and send them off to the following address - SEGA RALLY TIME ATTACK, SEGA, SATURN MAGAZINE, PENNY COURT, 30-31 BARNINGDON LANE, LONDON, EC1A 4SD, to arrive NO LATER THAN APRIL 3RD.

Remember that you're going to need video evidence of your conquest if you want to win, but DON'T SEND YOUR VIDEOS YET. And please don't ring us up asking the fastest times, because it takes an about ten years to sort this thing out as it is. How would you like it if we kept ringing you up every five minutes to ask what your fastest time was, eh?

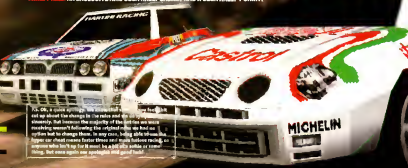
FIRST PRIZE: FREE SATURN GAMES FOR A YEAR, A SEGA RALLY JACKET AND A SEGA RALLY T-SHIRT!

SECOND PRIZE: TEN SATURN GAMES AND AN EXCLUSIVE AM3 SEGA RALLY JACKET AND T-SHIRT!

THIRD PRIZE: AN EXCLUSIVE AM3 SEGA RALLY JACKET AND A SEGA RALLY T-SHIRT!

TIME ATTACK TOP TEN!

1	Dean Gribben, Dursley	3.04.98
2	David Laster, Bristol	3.06.77
3	Jon Pinnauert, Watford	3.08.88
4	Mike Pegler, Bristol	3.08.61
5	Tom Williams, Swansea	3.09.22
6	Mark Bates, Birmingham	3.09.86
7	Ian Davis, Eastbourne	3.09.77
8	Alan Holt, Burnley	3.09.83
9	David Parker, Marlow	3.11.38
10	Ned Christian, Leigh	3.11.50



OK, OK, a quiet spring. We received a lot of feedback and up about the changes to the rules and the prizes. We're sorry, but because the majority of the letters we were receiving weren't following the original rules we had no option but to change them. In any case, being able to use the Hyper car ahead means faster times and more fun racing, so anyone who isn't up for it must be a bit of a wimp or something. But once again we apologise and good luck!

YOU'VE GOT THE GEAR, NOW YOU WANT THE ORIGINAL, THE BEST AND FRANKLY THE HIPPEST SEGA MAG. MEAN MACHINES. SORTED.

#1	SHELLSHOCK Rocky Bop: It's a zombie war in South China
----	--

#2	LOADED No wall crawler when you play it. No justice you
----	---

#3	ULTIMATE MK This is the level of obscurity the Shogun was designed for
----	---

#4	DARKSTALKERS Mistake
----	-------------------------

#5	PANZER II Playing tough. The world had no idea
----	--



Gamespotting

From the makers of Mean Machines

DUE TO ARRIVE 04:04:96

Selling you...

BY	ONE
PRICE	CTBA
STYLE	PLATFORM
RELEASE	FOR

Life as a platform game is proving quite treacherous on the Saturn. **Expectations are high** but the realities are far from it. **Rayman's performance was lack lustre** and Johnny Bazzokatone's was utterly disastrous. **Can Gex perform up there on the platform?**



TW! Yes, I watch it now and then. Let me see, I'm up at about half past eleven [yet in time to catch the last of *This Morning* with Richard and Judy and what that's finished I switch over and watch Pabla Mill or whatever it's called these days but it doesn't matter so long as it's got Alan Titchmarsh or Judy Spiers in it and then I watch the one o'clock news, followed by *Neighbours* and then it's a quiz show like *Turnabout* or *Chun Letters* and after this there's a bit of a barren patch for a couple of hours unless I'm prepared to watch some of the early *Telstar* Australian soap like *A Country Practice* or *The Young Doctors* and then things hot up again with the late afternoon quiz shows switching from one on BBC to bested by Paul Cole to either *Countdown* or *Riffman* to *Q&A*, depending on which is running, and after that it's time for the *Neighbours* repeat and then the news and then the evening schedule starts and... blah blah... The *BILL*... blah blah... *Centenary World*...

Sad isn't it? But TV sladdom is an easy thing to fall into and in the case of Gex, such apathy has cost him dearly. Sucked into his TV by a mad insect professor, no doubt out for retribution for the amount of time the voracious gecko has eaten as TV diners, Gex finds himself wandering through platform worlds in search of a way out. The great irony is of course that all the routes of escape depend on the very TV's and remote controls that seem to dominate Gex's destiny.

On this plot introduction alone you are no doubt already beginning to make all of the usual assumptions regarding a platform game and, unfortunately,

they're all likely to be right. Gex is a platform game that offers nothing in the way of originality or surprises. The action is set out over several worlds, each with its own theme like *Graveyard world*, *Jungle world* or — wait for it — *Cartoon world*. Gex has to find remote controls to access new levels, beat up foes with his tail or tongue, collect golden flies and power ups, and generally go about playing the game by the book.

In an attempt to jazz up the gecko, Gex features lots of wacky samples from TV and films, putting the lizard on the cultural pulse so to speak, in an effort to give him an air of credibility. Instead, Gex comes across as a character locked in the sloppy and dated world of the bodacious dude. It's another example of

how Gex succeeded in missing the boat, a boat incidentally that ought to be making its way to the less demanding shores of 16 bitdom.

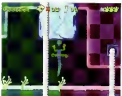
To redress the balance slightly I suppose I should point out that the game moves at a decent pace and that it's certainly playable, but while this is all true, none of these things make up for the utter predictability of it all.

Like Johnny Bazzokatone before it, Gex looks out of place on the Saturn. That's not to say that platform games have no future in 32 bit gaming, rather that games as mediocre as this have no place anywhere.

802



Stranding atop a skull raft, Gex is given to contemplating his highly predictable and mainstream destiny. And none of the TV's are bound to stick! What a personal disaster.





As well as crawling on walls and ceilings, Gex can also grip some walls head on like above.



What ever you do in life Gex, remember this: Under no circumstances trust a tomato.



GEX



Gex has a range of special abilities on offer to him. Among other things he can spit both fire and ice, navigate himself in an impenetrable whirlwind, and move at super speed.

A run of the wall platform game with a rather tame here and very predictable gameplay. Fans of Johnny Bazzokato will probably love it.

graphics	60
sound	65
playability	64
fantasibility	58
overall	62%



Gex comes face to face with one of the games exceptionally odd characters.

LAKE SIDE COURSE



VETERAN ROAD KNOWLEDGE 1995
ADVANCED DRIVING CLASS: PART 2

The Lakeside Course features more twists and turns than any of the others, and a special mention must be made of the road width: this course features the thinnest trackways of all and your powersteering must be exact: there is no room for mislaid! Once again, DAVID HODGSON is your guide.

LAKE SIDE A

After a swift start along the initial straight, you must position yourself on the left of the track for the first easy right. Steer the right embankment before straightening up and sliding towards the left. Swing your vehicle around in a power-sliding frenzy so you almost clip the side of the third bend before diving to the right-hand wall and positioning yourself up for the second set of bends.



First corner and time to tug that fence!



Grapple with the wheel, and slide left...



...keeping your cool and steering smart!

LAKE SIDE B

A narrow and suddenly twisting road. Swing left before sighting yourself quickly to take the tightly angled second corner. Drift from right to left and then head for the left bank, sharply power-slide completely around the left turn in the road.



Remember to pre-empt your corner...



...and slide close to the embankment!



LAKE SIDE C

You must take the next corner extremely wide, hugging the left before switching to the right almost immediately how comes the fun bit, as you must really rocket around the second section in one huge power-slide. This really separates the professionals from the amateurs, as any deviation from this racing line could lead to a spin out and a nasty spot of buffeting around the raised embankments. Then it is onwards through the next straight, to victory!



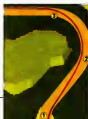
Firstly, a rather narrow lead...



...followed by a very sharp left turn.



Finally, power-slide with the wheel to straighten up before accelerating off!



SEGA ADVANCED DRIVING CLASS

TIPS



LAKESIDE D

From your position on the right hand side, a small skid is all that is required for the first corner and then you must drive along the right side of the track before a sharp slide followed by a brake to tight yourself. Once completed, there's a rapid straight to follow before you encounter another difficult turn.



Get another drifting corner to take early.



Followed by a rather sharp right turn.



A quick touch of the brake and then floor it towards the pretty blue lake!

LAKESIDE F

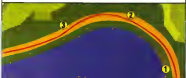
You must fly round this long left hand corner with only the thought of weaving on your mind. Start your first powerslide in the middle of the road and continue with the tip of your nose just nestling the left embankment. Then swing out slightly to the right for the final left hand turn.



...and then keep on weaving and sliding!



The relief of a long straight to cross down!



LAKESIDE E

There are only two problem sections, but the narrow roadways mean that extra vigilance and care should be taken when approaching both corners. A rather natty sweep around the first corner to the right followed by a supremely confident left hander is all that is required.



No time to view the scenery! Hang a right...



Before the start of a huge sliding left!

LAKESIDE G

At most there, just four more hairdrier corners to weave between and the first two are of the usual difficulty. As usual, approach the corner wide and then swing round in a power slide of doom so that you're bonnet-touching before positioning yourself for the next left hander. Then an intensive powerslide on the second bend before the final corners are taken.



Even out next to the wall, but don't hit it!



A tight second bend before a wide wide.

LAKESIDE H

For every corner there should be a spot of gear changing that accompanies every bend (see our screenshots as a guide). After your shilly-shally through the final section of the track, the finishing straight opens up in front of you! Go for that win!



Use the same skill as for Lakeside G.



The path to true *Virtua Fighter 2* mastery continues in this - the third installment of the continuing VF coverage. In this month's section we'll take a look at three of the most popular characters in this incredible fighting game. First up, we have the drunken master himself, Shun Di - followed up by the Bryant siblings, Sarah and Jacky.



The key to mastering Shun is to learn to control his huge range of unpredictable moves. Although he has a gargantuan amount of special moves at his disposal, it's actually his basic attacks that are often the most effective. This is because the special moves, while being very slow to execute and easy to block, are sure to put heat in his flying roundhouse kick (together) - it looks bloody great and does a fair amount of damage, but Shun advertises this movement so effectively before he does it that it's easily blocked or evaded, if not outright countered.

The key to Shun mastery is to learn how to get the best out of his basic moves (most of which are in the basic attacks list we printed in *SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE* issue three). The great advantage with these moves is that Shun often gets away from one level of height to another. This of course makes forming an effective defence against him twice as difficult - opponents are confused as to whether they should be crouching and guarding or standing and blocking. These moves are extremely simple - most of them are simply one joyed movement followed by either punch or kick.

On this page, we have constructed a few combinations for you to master. Again, they aren't really that difficult to master and they certainly aren't in the same league as many of the more complex moves that other characters have. Shun's basic attacks are simple, but they're also very effective. Shun's basic attacks are simple, but they're also very effective. Shun's basic attacks are simple, but they're also very effective. Shun's basic attacks are simple, but they're also very effective.



A WORD ON AXIS STRIKES

Shun is only one of two characters in the game who has a range of "axis" moves. These attacks take advantage of the depth of 3D in the game and allow Shun to move "in" and "out" of the screen. These moves are not really attacks in any sense of the word - they're best described as dodges, which enable you to avoid an opponent's attack and instantly respond. These moves are initiated using the G button along with either down or forward, or down/forward.



Downward strike (down-axis forward-forward) used against flying opponent.



Forward strike (down-axis forward-forward) used against flying opponent.



It's the master's specialty: the high kick. It's a powerful move, but it's also a bit tricky to pull off.



It's the master's specialty: the high kick. It's a powerful move, but it's also a bit tricky to pull off.



Just the knee kick itself from a standstill can send an opponent flying, when used as a counter.



By following up this attack with a dash away, Master Paul can follow up with a good foot.

SARAH BRYANT

Two characters were clearly far superior to all of the others in the first game fight: The Fast (and indeed the winner of the tournament) was the recently introduced Lisa Chan. Following up quickly behind her was Sarah Bryant, the brainwashed tool of the sinister Dr. Sengoku, who sent her to the tournament to kill off her brother Jacky. Still in the thrall of the mad doctor, she was mastering some even more powerful techniques for herself.

Before the series of speed and button-press combinations that usually inflict the most damage on opponents, in this respect, she's still way better than Jacky. She has a few budgetary power. Her reliance on button-press combos is now something of a disadvantage. In the first game, this was a strength, and there was little Sarah could do about it. In VF2, it's worse. She can do exactly the same thing. Unlike Lisa, she has no idea how to use her speed. She can confuse her opponent before landing her attack, but she's not really a very good fighter. When and where Sarah will attack, timing her while you do.

Timing and staggering combinations, Sarah excels very easily in this regard. In fact, many of the so-called "new" moves are used by combination attacks. These moves (before her stagger-kick) are used by

regularly effective, although Sarah's own stagger-kick moves and speed allow for slightly more effective strikes.

The real problem you Sarah plays is that you need to overcome her predictability. The temptation is to stick to tried-and-true combos, but this just leads to your attacks being easily countered. Go back to your basic moves and start applying, knowing how to initiate an attack from different heights, could be the key to harnessing the unstoppable power that Sarah Bryant has the potential to be. Combine this new approach with these combos, and the tournament is easily yours...



Stagger-kick attack, the most powerful move in the game.



Stagger-kick attack, the most powerful move in the game.



In regular combos, Sarah's most powerful move is the stagger-kick attack, the most powerful move in the game.



A good, easy-to-use, little-up move is the stagger-kick attack, the most powerful move in the game.



There's the other big, but it's a stagger-kick attack.



After a stagger-kick, the stagger-kick attack is the most powerful move in the game.



A series of stagger-kick attacks are on the cards, but for the most part...



We're decided to go for a couple of stagger-kick attacks.



And there's the rest of it.

JACKY BRYANT

The most popular character of Virtua Fighter 2 was Jacky Bryant, who earned himself many fans due to his ease of use and power. In the Japanese VF tournament which helped shape the scenario for VF2, he was trounced by Liu and Sarah players, so AM2 have boosted what he's best at (ease of use and power) for the sequel. The result is a player who all too often becomes super-heavy in the hands of the VF2 novice. This is because attacks of such power can be activated so easily that even some experts have trouble against him.

Another irritating factor about Jacky is the fact that his pounce attack (up+P) is the fastest of all the fighters and the simplest knock-down can be followed up effectively with this frustrating technique.

Of course, all of this is pretty good news if you're a Jacky player. However, if ever you want to learn to use him properly, you really want to make use of the available range of combos at his disposal. Like Akira, Jacky can rely on both staggerers and floats in order to pull off some exceptionally damaging techniques. Unfortunately, he relies pretty much on a small range of moves to do this. For staggering, it's the elbow move (forward+P) or the side-kick (down/forward+K) and for combos it's nearly always the ubiquitous knee (forward+K).

The combinations we've set out below show off both of these types of combos and are essential reading for all Jacky players. The sad tragedy about this fighter is that regardless of how good you are at combos and what-have-you, in the end you really need to resort to cheese in order to get anywhere with him (when you're playing in the big league).



Like Sarah, the elbow (forward+P) is great for staggering opponents.



This leaves the opponent wide open to a floating knee (forward+K).



It is completely ideal to follow up with a kick-flip (back/up+K).



The basic knee punt (down+K) produces a recoverable float when used as a combo.



Follow this with two easy hits activated by using a simple PC combo.



You even get a nice spinning roundhouse into the bargain.



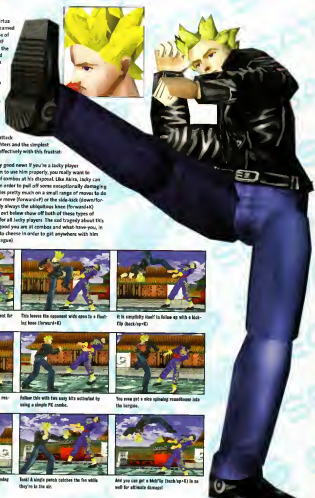
Oh look! There's that knee (forward+K) looking used to float an opponent.



Look! A single punch catches the foe while they're in the air.



And you can get a kick-flip (back/up+K) in as well for ultimate damage!



Tips

X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM

It's possible to start the game up in its original arcade mode, complete with the original messages. To do this, hold A, C and Start on Controller 2 when you start the game up. Keep them held and the arcade start-up screens will appear, followed by the "Insert Coin" message. The L button inserts another credit and the R button acts like "Start" in the arcade.



Hold A, C and Start on Controller 2 when you start the game up.

And after this arcade start-up screen you'll get the "Insert Coin" message. This cheat's great, isn't it?



If you're fed up of not getting this lovely arcade Capcom screen in Saturn X-Men, use the cheat above to get it every time you play!

HANG ON GP '96

These cheats let you access a few of the extra features in the game which would normally require playing the game. **Ugh Access Extended Course**—Go to the option screen, highlight "Game laws" and press B. Now press the shoulder buttons in this order: R, L, L, R, L. A beep noise will let you know that the courses are available. **Free Time Trials**—Highlight "Time trial" on the main menu and press Right, Left, Up, Down, Z. A beep noise will let you know that you can now have "Free" time when in Time trial mode. **Access Hidden bike**—Once you have collected the five extra bikes by winning the three extended courses, get a lap time of under 20 seconds on the Long All-Butons Cliff Road track. The silver bonus bike should be added to your collection.



When on this screen, press Right, Left, Up, Down, Z and you'll be able to time trial for as long as you want (40%).

Go to this screen, press B, and then press L, L, L, L to get more screens.

DARIUS

These cheats should be performed on the title screen with "Game Start" and "Option". For a special "Abnormal" difficulty, hold X and press Z, C, L, B, Left, R, L. Go to the option screen to find the new setting. For lots of credits, nine actually, press X, A, L, R, Left, then hold L and press X, C, Z, A, Right, Right. Start the game and each player will have those nine credits.



This is where you should perform both of the cheats.

On the left you can see "Abnormal" difficulty selected, and above you can see that both players have got plenty of credits. If you're playing in one-player mode, see up your own credits, then continue as player 2.

VIRTUA FIGHTER 2

To make the staggering letters on the name entry screen do strange things, follow these directions. All of the buttons should be held as soon as you complete the game or lose in Ranking Mode, and kept held through the "Now Loading..." screen. Letters fight like Shun—hold Up, A, and Z until the entry screen appears. Underwater Name Entry—hold Y and L until the screen appears. Letters Fight like Dural—hold L, R, X, Y and Z until the screen appears.



Turn the letter A in fighting like Shun (it's performing the B-S punch) and show it's dual counting a punch.



Hold the buttons before this screen appears to get the letters to fight back.

Not only is it possible to summon the Virtua Bird to fly around a fight, it's possible to make it lift your player off the screen! To make it do this, play through the game in one-player mode until you reach Jacky's stage, then press X, Y and Z on both controllers to call the bird. Now lose the final round with a Ring Out and as soon as you fall out the ring, hold Up, keep holding it until the Game Over message appears and the bird will carry you away! It definitely works with Jacky (or Dural) and it occasionally works with other characters.



Call the bird in one player mode, then fall out the ring to get the message below.



If you keep holding Up, the bird will pick your character up and carry them off the screen, just like it is with Jacky here.



TOH SHIN DEN S

To access the free camera view pause a game at any time and go to the options screen. Highlight "Ext" and press the L and R buttons at the same time. The pause message will disappear and you'll now be able to control the camera.

- D-pad - Move camera
- L - Rotate left
- R - Rotate right
- Y - Zoom in
- Z - Zoom out



When you get to this screen, highlight "Ext" and press L and R.



RAYMAN

If you aren't very good at the game, try this cheat out. It's probably harder to do than actually completing the game.

For up continues—Focus the game, press Left and release it, then press and hold A then C, then release them in the same order. Then press and hold Z, L, Subtree and R button in that order, then release them in the same order. Then press and hold X, Z and Up in that order, then release them in the same order. Then up again.



When the game's paused, follow the instructions above to get extra continues. Personally, I'd rather run out of lives and play 102 instead.





OUT NOW

GAME of the month

BY	ACCLAIM
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	★★★★★

X-MEN

While Japanese audiences were treated to the finished copies of X-Men over three months ago, UK gamers were subjected to the undeciduous of Acclaim entertainment. In fact, we weren't expecting to see this title in the shops until June, at the very earliest. So, to suddenly bring the game forward by around four months means that this top title has received a rather low-key release. But, don't let that put you off. Aside from Virtue Fighter 2, this is the best beat 'em up to appear on the Saturn, even though it hasn't managed to break into the 3D realm.

Where X-Men games have been somewhat guilty in the past of misrepresenting their comic and cartoon counterparts, this is by far and away the best conversion of Wolverine and co. to date. And if you're an arcade fan, there's no doubt that you'll recognise it, as it's also an arcade title – luckily as an arcade conversion it measures up considerably well too. In fact, there's very little difference between this and the original arcade game, but that's probably because Capcom the developer of the original arcade title were also responsible for the conversion. Now, you'd expect the Japanese conversion to be pretty spot on just as a matter of course, but Capcom have also done a brilliant job on the PAL conversion too. The European game runs at exactly the same speed as its Japanese counterpart and comes equipped with full-screen play too.

However, it's not just a good game because the conversion is up to scratch. Nope, the gameplay itself should be enough to get any beat 'em up fan foaming at the mouth. In addition to a whole host of X-Men characters to choose from, there's literally millions of special moves to learn and of course, the opportunity to master the 2x123 combo. And as you'd expect from the beat 'em up king, the moves are truly spectacular: the graphics are of top notch quality and bundled together this makes for an excellent package – perhaps not quite as impressive as Sega's own Virtue Fighter 2, but as 2D beat 'em ups go this is in a class of its own. An essential buy.



We used to do that at school and get chosen full of slack.



We never did that at school, buddy. It looks painful.



This shot demonstrates the demonstration sequence which demonstrates features such as the energy drain.



Super Enriches are very good indeed. And make you look big and clever. Human's is hard to do because his Super is weak.

BY	RECLAIM
PRICE	£55.99
RATING	★★★★

NFL Quarterback Club '96

It's taken an absolute age for an American football game to appear on the Saturn, but you can guarantee that as soon as this is in the shops there will be an absolute deluge of football games to follow in the next couple of months. But, for now, NFL has the steal over everything else. Which actually is no bad thing at all, although it doesn't enjoy the "big name" attraction of titles such as John Madden, it's a pretty good representation of American football. As were the Megadrive and 32X versions of a couple of months ago. Luckily though, the Saturn version looks and feels very different from its little 16-bit cousins' efforts - there's loads of camera angles to choose from, some rather nicely blurred graphics and, of course, screen upon screen of "vital" footballing information. In fact, it would seem initially that Quarterback Club is a nigh on perfect representation of bank football. And, for the most part it is. But it does suffer from a few misgivings. Probably the most prominent initiation factor comes from the CPU's tendency to predict your passes for you, resulting in gameplay that's rather more perfect than it should be. But, in multi-player mode, this feature becomes redundant, and as you'd expect, this is the best way to play the game.

On the whole, although Quarterback Club is, for the most part, a jacked-up glorified 16-bit title, it's still an essential buy for anyone who's into American football. While it doesn't really expand on the game genre unless you want to dust off your Megadrive every time you fancy a bit of John Madden, it really is the only option.



It's the first American football game on the Saturn and it's pretty damn fine.



Expect to see plenty of other American football games appearing in the near future.



Mortal Kombat II

BY	RECLAIM
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★★



Please take our advice and give up this in favour of MK 3 Ultimate which is given the Discworld treatment in this issue.



Oh dear, in fact, oh double dear with cherries on top: The non-appearance of MKII on the Saturn has been something of an enigma, but luckily, all is solved with its appearance this month. In fact, this works in two ways - fans of the MK series will now be able to rush out and buy the title, although where they actually come to play the game, they may find it very shocking indeed.

Unfortunately this has nothing to do with the copious amounts of gore in the game. Even less to do with the head-ripping, spine-stripping moves either. It's more to do with the fact that this is absolutely appalling. When we reviewed the game back in the very first issue of SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, we were informed (after our review) that the game was not to be released and was being taken back to the drawing board for some essential alterations. By this we thought that Probe/Activision meant that they were intending to add the finishing touches to their game. But, what they've actually done is make the game much worse than any of the versions seen on cartridge format. Yes, gone are the fluid beats of jostle-yes replaced instead by cumbersome, jostery gameplay for a start, the sound surely the bane of CD gaming is absolutely appalling, and the loading time for dems on the tragic - in fact, the whole title suffers from chronic slowdown.

If ever there was a title that eclipsed the current MK backlash this is it. A more whizzing, fragile grandad did suffer conversely you'd be hard pushed to find the fact that this doesn't even measure up to a cartridge title should tell its utter inadequacy.

BY	ACCELASH
PRICE	£29.99
RATING	***

Ah, now this is more like it. Even though Darius may look like a coin-op that was squeezed out of the wrong end of the eighties, it's easily one of the most playable games of this month. Sure, then, that this bomb-a-minute shooter should feature fish. Yes, fish. But, although fish are generally quite placid creatures (apart from Piranhas of course), in this game, they're quite the most vicious beasts that mankind has ever had to face. But don't let that put you off, because that's the exact joy of playing Darius. There's literally millions of monsters to maul, most of which appear on screen at once, and even though there's a rather glaring lack of the third dimension in the gameplay, the graphics and challenge are extremely superior and should provide a superior play for all shoot 'em up fans.

With 26 levels on all plus a difficulty level that really will challenge all standards of gamers, Darius is the perfect choice for anyone who's into pure gameplay. As long as you're not going to miss that it's not using the Saturn's full potential that is

Darius



BY	ERG
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	**

TITAN WARS



Titan wars it seems, it now feel then it suddenly crashed into the sea amidst screamingly red. Bizarre bucket head!



After a lack of shoot 'em ups at the time of the Saturn's launch, a few more seem to wheedle their way on to the machine each month, although we're yet to see one of any substantial proportions.

Basically your objective in this game is to fly about in your little toy ship, mega tearing valleys and the likes, and shooting lots to break up the monoliths. There's also plenty of nice FMV interludes the choiciness of which has not been seen since the days of Tom Cat Alley on the Mega CD.

In fact "Mega CD" suits this title up very well if you need further evidence to support this theory, just take a look at the 3D or even the animation on the ship.

It's a shame that equal amounts of effort weren't ploughed into both the FMV sequences and the gameplay, as the best hasn't been made of either part to warrant either extended play or a purchase of the title.

BY	SEGA
PRICE	£39.99
RATING	***

HANG ON

Relaxed in the late months of last year to a rather apathetic Japanese audience, Hang On didn't exactly generate the excitement that Sega hoped it would. The most obvious reason for this, is while the arcade version of Hang On was probably one of the most popular arcade titles of the last decade, the Saturn "conversion" is unfortunately nothing like the coin-op everyone goes all misty-eyed over.

What's there in its place isn't awful by any means - the action provides a playable enough racer, although almost every feature is laid waste in one department or another. For instance, while the graphics have a decent amount of variety the motorcycle looks nothing like the real thing, has hexagonal wheels and very little thought put into its appearance. And the gameplay, whilst almost reproducing the effects of a motorcycle sim, feels almost dead in the - there's no weight to the bike and the controls are just way too sensitive.

Of course, if it wasn't for the appearance of the heavyweight Sega Rally, Hang On may have just about chugged its way on to a decent sales performance. But with such excellent titles already out there, there's no real room for another racer that's not up to scratch.



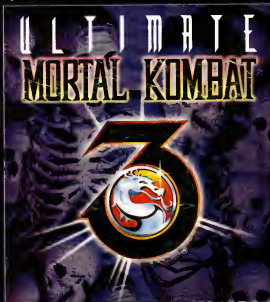
Hang On. It's as dream machines unfortunately.



next Month

DESTRUCTION DERBY REVIEW!

Oh you lucky lucky readers you. Next month (finally) sees the review of Destruction Derby! Yes, we know it's taken ages, but it's finally finished! And that's not all - there'll be loads more Saturn coverage inside the mag, including **LOADED** and full reviews of **MORTAL KOMBAT 3**, **DAIK-STALKERS**, **DEFGON 5** and **EURO 96**. You'd be an obvious fool to miss it. So don't, or people will point at you in the street laughing "Fool! Fool!" until you are eventually driven to suicide.



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SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE USE



TO TEST ALL SOFTWARE

GEX

For strength, speed, and that
healthy reptilian glow.

Get ready for one serious See-Food Cocktail.
It's GEX, your bug munching,
tongue-lashing after-egg. Oh yeah, we got
Hungry-Man portions of pop-culture
cheese all right. With late night TV freaks
like Camera and Flatulence Man.
But it's our special sauce—over 300
hilarious one-liners and sound effects
from HBO® comedian Dave Cougler—that give
GEX major attitude. So forget about
good taste. And go with the stanky bag
du jour instead.



CRYSTAL
DYNAMICS

PRODUCED BY
BAND
INTERACTIVE



It's all about the food! And the food is all about the food! And the food is all about the food!



It's all about the food! And the food is all about the food! And the food is all about the food!



It's all about the food! And the food is all about the food! And the food is all about the food!



It's all about the food! And the food is all about the food! And the food is all about the food!

NEW
for
Sega Saturn™
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PlayStation™
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